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THE
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	CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

"The first and most sacred of all Property is Thought, and the first duty of a Philosopher and
" Freeman is to communicate his opinion to his Country whatever may be its success."

VOL. II.

FROM JANUARY TILL JUNE, 1809.

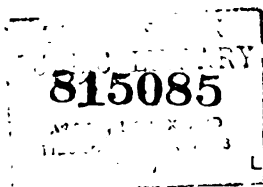
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JUN
VRADEL

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JANUARY 31, 1809.

[Vol. 2.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

THE THREE BROTHERS.

SIR,
ON reading the last number of your Magazine, I was struck with a letter, the writer of which pointed out with much force the fatal consequences of duelling. The subject immediately brought to my recollection, a circumstance of that nature which I had met with some time ago in a French book, and which at the time I read it, affected me very sensibly, and has dwelt, ever since in my memory. As example is beyond precept, I doubt not but your readers will be pleased with hearing the particulars of a transaction, so powerfully tending to illustrate the arguments adduced by your correspondent. They are extracted from the memoirs of a gentleman, who lived a long time in the family of the celebrated Cardinal Richlieu, and in some measure shared his confidence. The incidents of his life, which preceded the melancholy affair, that has induced me to lay it before you, though not closely connected with it, will, I presume, excite sufficient interest to apologize for their insertion.

Rochefort was the son of a gentleman of noble birth, but small fortune, who resided near Paris. He had the misfortune to be deprived of his mother when an infant, and his father marrying soon after, he suffered the neglect too commonly experienced by those over whom a stranger is substituted in place of the natural guardian of their helpless years. After dwelling with his nurse for the first ten years of his life, disregarded and almost totally unknown by his father, he at length through the interference of a relation was taken home. This change however profited him but little. The severity of a step-mother,

rendered him not only a stranger but almost a servant in his father's house, and he at length formed the desperate resolution of flying from it for ever.

The arrival of a band of strolling beggars, resembling the Gypsies in England, confirmed him in his intention. Their life of thoughtless idleness pleased him; he joined their company, and was soon initiated in all the petty knaveries by which they procured subsistence. Indeed, so apt a scholar was he, that, as we are informed by himself, he had not quitted his father's lands, when he brought into the common stock, six pullets, which he had purloined. He was rewarded for this early promise of talent, with a glass of brandy, by the chief of the gang, who at the same time expressed his confidence, that he would one day be an honour to his profession. In this company he continued five years, but at length as his understanding began to ripen, the reflection of what he had been, and of the degraded line of life in which he was at present, began to make an impression on his mind, and he determined to quit it for some more suitable to his birth and family. This resolution was confirmed by the breaking up of the gang, when in the south of France, among the Pyrenees. He took the road to Roussillon, and having arrived at the town of Locates, offered his services to the Governor as a soldier, and was accepted.

He had no sooner engaged in the military life, than he sighed for an opportunity of signalizing himself. For this purpose he applied for leave to make a sally to the environs of the neighbouring town of Salses, then occupied by a garrison of Spaniards. Having with some difficulty succeeded in his application, he sallied forth, attended by a single comrade. In this Quixotic expedition, he showed

some sagacity and foresight. In some of his former reconnoitring parties, he had discovered that a Spanish officer carried on an intrigue with a young woman in the neighbourhood, and that they met at a waste house, near the walls. Thither he repaired; concealed his comrade in a well, and pretended to be busily employed in washing some linen. Soon after a soldier came from the town, and on seeing nothing near but a boy so employed, retired and gave the signal to his master, who was soon perceived directing his steps to the place of assignation, where the lady came at the same time. But scarce had they time to give vent to the first expressions of affection, when Rochefort rushed in with a pistol in each hand, calling on him to surrender. His summons was obeyed. He led off his two astonished prisoners to the place where his comrade was concealed; and the officer seeing him so well seconded gave up all thoughts of resistance or escape. They proceeded till they had got to some distance from the enemy's town, when his companion showing an inclination to take improper liberties with their female prisoner, a quarrel ensued, in which Rochefort defended his prize so gallantly, that the other made his escape. He was now exposed to a new danger; the soldier, fearful of punishment on his return, deserted and gave information of what just occurred; a party was sent out, and he had just arrived at the gate of Locates when he saw three horsemen galloping up to overtake him.

This action gained so much on the Governor, that he wrote an account of it to court; and Cardinal Richlieu, who then held the reins of government, was so much pleased with the relation, that he ordered the young soldier to be sent to Paris, at the same time remitting a sum sufficient to equip him, and to defray the expenses of the journey. The young adventurer made no delay in availing himself of this dawn of good fortune; he instantly set out for Paris. On approaching that city, he turned aside to pay a debt of duty and gratitude, by waiting on his father, and remunerating a poor Clergyman in the

neighbourhood, who had given him a small sum, when he quitted his father's house. His reception in these places was very different. In the latter he received a hearty welcome, but with the former his reception was such as might be expected by a runaway son, from a harsh step-mother. His horse was left without hay and oats, and himself scarcely asked to his father's table; chagrined to the highest degree, he smothered his resentment through respect, determining however to quit the inhospitable mansion, as early as possible, at day break. While he was ruminating on this disagreeable subject in his chamber, he was astonished at the unexpected appearance of his father and step-mother, who addressed him with every mark of affection, and made innumerable apologies for their coolness, which they attributed to every cause but the right one. The reason of the change may be easily divined. His servant had mentioned the circumstances of his journey; and he was now no longer the fugitive step-son, but the protégé of the all-powerful minister of France. The house and all that it contained was now at his service; not without a hint that it might be soon in his power to repay, by future favours, this unexpected display of parental affection. The next morning, as he was preparing to set out, he found a breakfast prepared, as if for the entertainment of a personage of the first consequence. The servants had been summoned two hours before day; and every branch of the family within reach collected; the yard was crowded with horses, and the house with friends and relations all eager to pour out a profusion of compliments and services to the young courtier. He never before knew all his relatives; with difficulty he got out of their hands, and proceeded on his journey; having now for the first time experienced a sample of that flattery, which he was to receive in a more refined form when ushered in at court, under the same character that had caused such a change in the conduct of his father's family.

On his introduction, the Cardinal was at first disappointed, but from

his conversation finding that he had a spirit beyond his years, he soon changed his opinion, and retained him in his family in the quality of a page. In this employment he quickly ingratiated himself into his master's good graces, and showed such proofs of intelligence and fidelity that he was intrusted in the management of several of his court intrigues. Some of these are worthy of mention from their singularity. At one time he was sent to the road to St. Denis with a bag of gold, which he was directed to place under a particular stone, and to return immediately without ever looking behind him. At another time he was sent to a particular place, where he found a man in an attitude which had been previously described to him, leaning with his face on one hand against a tree, holding the other hand behind his back, as a physician is sometimes exhibited on the stage, angling, if I may so call it, for his fee. Into this hand a sum of money was to be deposited, which was done without ever seeing the face of the person who received it. In these kind of secret services he past two years, much against his inclinations, for his mind still retained a strong bent towards the military profession, in which he had made such an honourable commencement.

During his good fortune he was not forgetful of his former friends. The first favour he obtained from the Cardinal was a small church preferment, for his old patron, the curate. This unexpected present was attended with consequences he did not at first foresee. If it excited the gratitude of the person on whom it was bestowed, it brought on him a torrent of abuse from his step mother, who did not fail to vent her reproaches on him for overlooking his own family. She was at length pacified by fair promises. But he had scarcely rid himself of her anger, when he was overwhelmed with the importunities of his relations. On hearing of his successful interference in behalf of the curate, they poured in upon him in multitudes, from every quarter. The extent and number of his connections was incredible. From Picardy to Bearne, not a province but could

produce some of his family, all prepared with genealogies and pedigrees to prove the kindred. Their reception was not such as they might think themselves entitled to, and they all returned fully convinced that their favoured relation had not been so long at court, without learning at least one part of his trade, the art of denying with a good grace.

In the mean time the Cardinal who became every day more attached to him, continued to employ him in his secret intrigues. Of these we shall pass over the most, as differing little from what may be met with in the calendar of every corrupt and intriguing court; one however is worth notice from the danger to which he was exposed, and the ingenuity with which he extricated himself. He was dispatched to Brussels, in the disguise of a Capuchin, to unravel some designs supposed to be carried on against the Cardinal. This was a service of a new and very disagreeable nature. To prevent suspicion he was obliged to submit to all the rigid discipline of that order; to travel on foot, to sleep hard, and rise several times during the night to attend the religious offices of the convent. In short, his manner of life was the very reverse of what he had been hitherto accustomed to, and therefore agreed very ill with him. But such sacrifices were necessary to retain his master's good graces. He therefore submitted in silence, but not without repining. One day as he was quitting the house of a nobleman into whose good graces he had insinuated himself for the purpose of gaining information, he was met by three gentlemen, one of whom after looking at him very steadily, cried out, "That must be Rochefort if he is alive." Rochefort scarce heard the words, when without giving himself time to look back, he quickened his pace, and turning down the first street he met, escaped any further investigation. He immediately went to a taylor's shop, and told the master of it, that if he immediately furnished him with a suit of clothes, he should be well paid, adding that, though a Capuchin, he always kept a small purse in private, to provide against emergencies. The

taylor, glad of bringing his wares to a good market, supplied him with what he wanted, for which he did not charge much more than double price. Rochefort did not delay a moment to change his clothes, and having hired horses, rode out of the town, disguised as a Spaniard. He had need of all his haste, for the whole town was soon in an uproar, guards were placed on the convent, and every measure taken to prevent his escape. His enemies were doubly anxious to seize and punish him not only as a spy, but to retaliate on the Cardinal, for the death of a nobleman of the Spanish party, whom he had caused to be beheaded shortly before, for engaging in a conspiracy against his own life.

His first step on his arrival at Paris was to present himself to the Cardinal, who was very much surprised and enraged, at finding that he had returned without leave. On hearing the whole story, however, he was conscious of the necessity of the step he had taken, and Rochefort was again admitted to his former intimacy. He had now arrived at the meridian of prosperity; his expenses, which were very great, for his good fortune had not made him an economist, were defrayed by his patron, and new favours were daily bestowed upon him by his indulgent master. Nor while he himself was basking in the sun, was he forgetful of his friends, who were still in the shade. He had already procured a pair of colours for his eldest brother, who, after having served two or three campaigns with some credit, lost his life in Flanders. On his death he procured the appointment for another of his brothers, and shortly after introduced his youngest brother to the Cardinal, and prevailed upon him to promote the former to a lieutenancy, and bestow the vacant ensigncy on the latter.

All these favours were granted with so much willingness that Rochefort thought he could not do too much for such a patron, and sighed for an opportunity of giving a proof of his zeal and gratitude. Such an opportunity soon presented itself. As he was one evening dining in a mixed company, an Englishman who was present, either instigated by wine, or from

some private pique, broke out into the bitterest invectives against the Cardinal, whom he spoke of as a minister defiled with the most enormous crimes. At first Rochefort checked himself and calmly remonstrated with him on the impropriety of such language towards his friend. But as this had no effect, and the stranger proceeded still farther in his abusive language, his passion got the better of his prudence, and he threw a plate at the other's head. They immediately had recourse to their swords, and the dispute would have been decided on the spot, had it not been for the interference of their friends, by whose means they were separated for the time.

The next morning while he was yet in bed, he was informed that a gentleman wished to speak with him, and on his being introduced, he immediately recognized the features of one of the company of the former evening. The intention of his visit may be easily guessed. He told him that his friend the Englishman wished to wipe off an affront which could only be expiated by the blood of one of the parties, requested that he would come at a time and place appointed, with two of his friends, there to decide the dispute without interruption.

The request was instantly complied with; and nothing now remained for Rochefort but the choice of the two friends who were to accompany him. Duelling was in these days still more bloody and fatal than it is at present. The sword, a weapon much more deadly than the pistol, was always used on such occasions, and it was the custom to go to the ground, attended with two or three friends, who were not content to be calm spectators of the contest, but thought themselves bound in honour to act as principals, and thus the decision of a trivial point of honour was not seldom attended with the loss of several lives. Rochefort was long deliberating on whom he should turn his thoughts, but at length reflecting that he was about to engage in the Cardinal's cause, and that he had two brothers at present in Paris, of an age to carry arms, and who had been indebted to his friendship for the promotion they already enjoyed, he thought

that they were the fittest persons to avenge his quarrel. To them, therefore, he imparted his proposal, which was accepted on their part, with the greatest avidity.

With them, therefore, he set out to the wood of Boulogne, the place of rendezvous, where he found his adversaries prepared for the encounter. Their swords were immediately drawn, each singled out his opponent, and commenced the attack with all the vigour and address of which they were masters. Rochefort's eldest brother was first wounded, but was able to wound his antagonist in turn, and disarm him. Rochefort himself had equal success, having forced his sword from the person with whom he fought, and both now hastened to the relief of their youngest brother, who was still engaged and closely pressed. They had just come up to his relief when he received a thrust through the body and dropped dead at their feet. Such a sight was sufficient to rouse their utmost fury; they fell with united rage on his murderer, who soon found himself overpowered by a contest so unequal: he called out for quarter; generosity to the vanquished prevailed over the desire of revenge, and he was permitted to retire with his companions, unhurt.

They had thus gained three swords, a small compensation for the loss of a brother, whom they left breathless on the field of battle. But this was not all: his elder brother, who had been wounded through the body, as they were preparing to retire, suddenly expired in his arms. Thus was he the cause of the death of two brothers whom he tenderly loved, and whom he had led out to be innocently slaughtered. His step-mother, who had before charged him with the death of her eldest son, that had been killed in Flanders, now renewed her accusation with greater justice, and loudly upbraided him with being the premeditated murderer of all his nearest relations. The Cardinal also, though it was in his cause that the quarrel had commenced, refused to countenance him. Duelling had been strictly prohibited: two noblemen had lately expired on the scaffold, for their breach of this salutary edict. For four months

he spent a miserable wandering life, obliged to keep himself strictly concealed from every eye; and known only to one or two confidential friends, who were on the watch to seize on and report to him any favourable circumstance that might occur. At length it was intimated to him, through this channel, that the Cardinal wished him to deliver himself into the hands of justice. Though he could not divine the motives of such an order, he did not hesitate to obey; the life he now led became more intolerable than death itself. He surrendered himself, but upon being brought to trial he was surprised to find the accusation drawn up in such favourable terms, that it could not have been more so, if prepared by himself. It stated that his antagonist not content with insulting him in a private company, had waylaid him in the wood of Boulogne, on his return from Versailles, with his three brothers, that they felt themselves constrained to use their swords in their own defence; not without having made the strongest remonstrances against such an infringement of the orders of the king. Defence against such an accusation was neither tedious nor difficult; he was of course acquitted. On being introduced to the Cardinal, he was informed to whom he owed the obligation of being so honourably extricated from his dangerous situation. Unwilling openly to take the part of one who had committed so flagrant a trespass against the laws, he concealed his real intention under the disguise of affected anger, and thus permitting the first ebullition of the royal anger to subside, had the informations drawn up in the favourable form already stated.

Such was one among innumerable other examples of the fatal consequences of this inhuman practice. The above narrative may also serve to show in a slight degree, the manners of the French court at that day. If such were its practices when it was directed by the abilities of the greatest statesman of his time, what must they have been when the ruling minister endeavoured to supply deficiency of talent, by superior skill in the arts of intrigue. Each exulted in turn in the short lived success of his pet-

ty artifices, while the state sunk gradually through their machinations into a state of corruption and debility, under which it could no longer exist, and from which it had not strength to extricate itself. Of the dreadful consequences of such a train of perverted policy, successively conducting it through the extremes of vice and anarchy and slavery in every shape, we of the present day are destined to be the spectators.

For the Belfust Monthly Magazine.

ANECDOTES OF INDIAN MUSICK.

BY W. OUSELEY, ESQUIRE.

WHEN I first resolved to apply myself to the study of the fine arts, as cultivated among the Persians, I solicited from various correspondents, settled in the East, the communication of such books and original information on those subjects as their situation might enable them to procure, whilst I availed myself of every opportunity that offered in this country to increase my collection of Oriental manuscripts.

With two fine copies of Sadi's *Gulistan* and *Bostan*, which once belonged to the celebrated *Chardin*, I have lately been so fortunate as to purchase a short, but very curious essay on *Persian Musick*, which from many circumstances I am willing to persuade myself was brought to Europe by that ingenious Orientalist, and is the same manuscript of which he laments that he had not procured the explanation while at *Isfahan*. But as my design in the present essay relates only to the musick of *Hindoostan*, I shall proceed to mention, that among several books sent to me from that country, some, though written in the Persian language, profess to be translated from the Sanscrit, and treat of the musical modes, the *Raug* and *Raugnees* of the *Hindus*. From these, however, so little has been borrowed in the course of the following remarks, that if any thing curious or entertaining should be found in them, the thanks of the reader will be principally due to my brother Mr. Gore Ouseley, whom a residence of several years in India has rendered perfectly acquainted with the theory and practice of *Hindu Musick*.

By him were communicated the Indian airs, and drawings of musical instruments: I can only boast of having compiled from his letters: of having deciphered (not without difficulty) the notation of the *Ramgully*, and translated a few passages from a Persian manuscript treatise on musick, which I shall mention hereafter, and for the perusal of which I am indebted to the politeness of Sir George Staunton.

On the subject of those ancient and extraordinary melodies, which the Hindus call *Raug* and *Raugnees*, the popular traditions are as numerous and romantic, as the powers ascribed to them are miraculous. Of the six *Raug*s, the five first owe their origin to the God *Mahadeo*, who produced them from his five heads. *Parbuttee* his wife constructed the sixth; and the thirty *Raugnees* were composed by *Brimha*. Thus, of celestial invention, these melodies are of a peculiar genus: and of the three ancient genera of the Greeks resemble most the *Enharmonic*; the more modern compositions are of that species termed *Diatonic*.

A considerable difficulty is found in setting to musick the *Raug* and *Raugnees*, as our system does not supply notes or signs sufficiently expressive of the almost imperceptible elevations and depressions of the voice in these melodies; of which the time is broken and irregular, the modulations frequent and very wild. Whatever magic was in the touch when Orpheus swept his lyre, or Timotheus filled his softly breathing flute, the effects said to have been produced by two of the six *Raug*s, are even more extraordinary than any of those ascribed to the modes of the ancients. *Mia Tonsine*, a wonderful musician in the time of king *Akber* sung one of the *Night Raugs* at mid-day: the powers of his musick were such that it instantly became night, and the darkness extended in a circle round the palace as far as the sound of his voice could be heard.

There is a tradition, that whoever shall attempt to sing the *Raug Dheepuck* is to be destroyed by fire. The Emperor *Akber* ordered *Naik Gopdul*, a celebrated musician, to sing that *Raug*: he endeavoured to excuse

himself, but in vain; the Emperor insisted on obedience: he therefore requested permission to go home and bid farewell to his family and friends. It was winter when he returned, after an absence of six months. Before he began to sing he placed himself in the waters of the *Jumnu* till they reached his neck. As soon as he had performed a strain or two the river gradually became hot; at length began to boil; and the agonies of the unhappy musician were nearly insupportable. Suspending for a moment the melody thus cruelly extorted, he sued for mercy from the Monarch, but sued in vain. *Akber* wished to prove more strongly the powers of this Raug: *Naik Gopaul* renewed the fatal song: flames burst with violence from his body, which, though immersed in the waters of the *Jumna*, was consumed to ashes!

These, and other anecdotes of the same nature, are related by many of the Hindus, and implicitly believed by some. The effect produced by the *Maig Mullaar* Raug was immediate rain. And it is told, that a singing girl once, by exerting the powers of her voice in this Raug, drew down from the clouds timely and refreshing showers on the parched rice-crops of Bengal, and thereby averted the horrors of famine from the *Paradise of Regions*. An European, in that country, inquiring after those whose musical performance might produce similar effects, is gravely told, "that the art is now almost lost; but that there are still musicians possessed of those wonderful powers in the West of India." But if one inquires in the West, they say, "that if any such performers remain they are to be found only in Bengal."

Of the present musick and the sensations it excites, one can speak with greater accuracy. "Many of the Hindu melodies" (to use the words of an excellent musician) "possess the plaintive simplicity of the Scotch and Irish, and others a wild originality, pleasing beyond description."

Counterpoint seems not to have entered, at any time, into the system of Indian Musick. It is not alluded to in the manuscript treatise which I have hitherto perused, nor have I discovered that any of our original Orien-

talists speak of it as being known in Hindostan. The books, however, which treat of the musick of that country are numerous and curious. Sir William Jones mentions the works of *Amin*, a musician; the *Damodara*, the *Narayan*, the *Ragurnata*, (or sea of passions;) the *Sabharinoda* (or delight of assemblies;) the *Ragavibodha*, (or doctrine of musical modes) the *Rutnacara*, and many other *Sanscrit* and *Hindustani* treatises. There is besides the *Raugaderpun* (or mirror of Raugs) translated into Persian by *Faker Ullah* from an Hindovee Book on the Science of Musick, called *Muncuttuhub*, compiled by order of *Man Sing*, *Rajah of Guahier*. The *Sungèet Derpun* (or mirror of melody) is also a Persian translation from the *Sanscrit*. To these I am enabled to add, by the kindness of the learned Baronet whom I have before mentioned, the title of another Hindovee work translated by *Deenunaut*, the son of *Buusdeho*, into the Persian language on the first of the month *Ramazan*, in the year of the Hegira, 1137, of our æra 1724.

"An Essay on the Science of Musick, translated from the book *Paur-jauthuck*: the object of which is to teach the understanding of the *Raug*s and *Raugnees*, and the playing upon musical instruments."

Oriental Collections.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

IN looking over your last month's Magazine, I see an article offered to the public, with an intent to set the character of Lawrence Sterne in a new point of view; but to those that wish not to meet an old friend with a new face, or see a character traduced, when deprived of the natural means of justifying itself, such anecdotes will, I am well convinced, afford but a poor repast. Sterne, no doubt, had his enemies as well as his friends, and most probably both in the extreme, which exquisite feelings generally produce; but can any thing now introduced, as *York scandal*, tend to prove his want of feeling, or set his character in a new point of view, in those

eyes that the stories of *leFevre* and *Maria*, have met with invaluable drops of sympathy; and as Sterne is long since out of the reach of censure or praise, and the reputation of his works too well established to be either supported or shook by panegyric or criticism, I cannot see the good such publication can now do, even if unconnected with the tongue of scandal, or the eye of prejudice. This unique author, the father of sentimental writing, received his education in Cambridge university, at a large expense, and this, with a certainty of his father being an officer in the army, and both his parents of respectable families, but ill accord with the tale of his mother being a washerwoman; and as to his unnatural feelings for his only child in distress, as stated in the anecdotes alluded to, his letters to that amiable young woman, which are before the public, will say more in his favour than I can, and are the best reply to such a foul assertion. On publishing his *Tristram Shandy* all eyes turned on him as the genius of the age. The gay, the witty and the wise, thought it an honour to pass an evening in his company; and as a proof of the estimation Sterne was held in, I quote his introduction to Lord Bathurst, a nobleman in the most proper sense of the word, with whom he lived ever after in a state of the strictest intimacy and friendship. And I cannot pay so bad a compliment to the penetration of that patron of genius and worth, and to the public at large, as to think they took a snake to their bosoms. Meeting Sterne one day, he says, "I want to know you, Mr. Sterne, but it is fit you should know also who it is that wishes this pleasure. You have heard," continued he, "of an old Lord Bathurst, of whom your Popes and Swifts have sung and spoke so much. I have lived my life with geniuses of that cast, but have survived them, and despairing even to find their equals, it is some years since I closed my accounts, and shut up my books, with thoughts of never opening them again, but you have kindled a desire in me of opening them once more before I die, which I now do, so come home and dine with me."

I cannot pass without observation a palpable contradiction in these anecdotes. In alluding to some of Sterne's highly finished pieces they say, "A man of no feeling may succeed best in giving us a finished picture of distress," and again, "The man, however, who feels and suffers in a high degree, must express himself strongly on the subject that affects him." What are we to make of this, and how are we to apply it to the condemnation of *Poor Yorick*? May his enemies be always caught in their own snares, and may the recording angel drop a tender tear on the failings of his nature, and blot them from the book of remembrance for ever.

This versatile genius was born in Clonmel, county of Tipperary, the 24th November, 1713, and died in London, the 18th March, 1768. Garrick who was his intimate friend and admirer, wrote the following short but appropriate epitaph for him:

"Shall pride a heap of sculptur'd marble raise,
Some worthless unmourn'd titled fool to praise,
And shall we not by one poor grave-stone learn,
Where genius, wit, and humour sleep
with Sterne."

A. B.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MOORISH GALLANTRY.

DURING the wars between the Moors and Christians in Spain, the queen of Castile was blocked up by the Moorish army, in the town of Azica. During the siege, she wrote in the following terms to the commander of the besiegers. "Are men of honour and knights of renown well employed in beleaguering the bower of an helpless woman? Go to Oriza, where you will find the king, who will receive you as warriors ought to be received." Struck with the reproach, the gallant Moors desired that the queen would appear on the walls; they were gratified in their request; the officers paid her a respectful homage, and the army straightway decamped for Oriza, and they were defeated by the Christian troops.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MR. EDITOR,

IN common with those of our sex who duly estimate the worth of a "lovely woman," and feel happy in promoting their comfort and security, I much admire the solicitude with which your cotemporaries have at different times published such hints and instructions, as seem calculated to obviate the calamitous consequences, frequently attending the accidental communication of fire, to the clothes of women.

The horror that instantly seizes the faculties of the sufferer (and of the spectator, if possessing sensibility) when such accidents occur, proves an almost insuperable obstacle to the application of such remedies, as are naturally suggested in the absence of danger.

At this season, when the cheering influence of fire is most necessary, the chance of such accidents is consequently greater.

Although it may be hoped that the care which the ladies generally take, to preserve their complexions, should induce them to keep a due distance from strong fires, it may be useful to remind them of the necessity of that precaution, on account of the danger to which they are exposed, from the lightness of the fabrics in which the present fashion has dressed them.

The "woven winds" in which they array themselves, even when winter, "Bars the doors wth driving snow," are extremely liable, on approaching a fire-place, to be suddenly drawn forward by the current of air which constantly rushes towards the fire.

However useful such precautions may be hoped to prove, I much fear they are far from sufficient to the prevention of the accidents to which they apply. These generally occur in an unguarded and unsuspecting moment, and therefore no preventives can be recommended, with hope of complete success, but such as are calculated to protect from injury, as well in the moment of forgetfulness, as of caution.

Of this description *wire screens* seem the best that can be recommended, and are certainly well adapted

to prevent the shocking accidents which too frequently happen to women and children; as they admit females to approach close to a fire, whilst they effectually prevent their clothes being carried forward by the current of air.

I know not whether your Hardware shops are supplied with them, but should suppose they are, having seen them used in your neighbourhood, of nice construction. If not, I presume we have artists that could furnish them. They should be made slightly convex, and have hooks by which they may be fastened to the chimney-piece, to prevent their being pulled down by children.

By their use, parents are relieved from the incessant anxiety and watchfulness incident to the care of children, whilst in a room where there is a fire; a circumstance of itself sufficient to strongly recommend their introduction into such families as have not already provided them.

Economists may object to the expense, but that objection cannot be gracefully made by those who have it in their power to apply the remedies we have seen recommended, of rolling the suffering person in a carpet or hearth-rug, to extinguish the flame. Surely those who can afford to use such expensive articles of furniture, may well expend a much smaller sum than would purchase either, on an article which may be the means of saving them from the pressure of an "unutterable weight of woe."

That husband or parent may never experience the calamity, which these remarks are intended to prevent, is the sincere wish of B. R.

Hillsborough, 22d Dec.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON MAGAZINES.

THIS word, from its original meaning and application, carries in it the idea of a storehouse, where is deposited various and useful treasure. How far the miscellaneous publications which have assumed this name, answer to the original idea, which their prospectus promises, their contents, from one period to another, will evince.

The valuable art of printing has given scope to the human soul. Genius, passion, imagination, and reason, have displayed their powers in issuing productions, as varied in kind, as they are incalculable in number. The libraries of the world are overstocked with books, from the huge folio to the half-penny ballad, suited to gratify every taste. In such a heterogeneous mass, much extraneous matter will exist. Intellectual and moral imperfection will become more or less discoverable. Many things will be rather calculated to blind, vitiate, and lead astray, than to instruct, rectify, and guide. A Magazine then becomes necessary, to select from such a multiplicity of writings, and exhibit whatever may be best suited to promote general improvement.

A large portion of mankind are deeply involved in the cares and bustle of life. They are more or less encumbered with high rents; and heavy taxes. The dues of the church and the state, should, and must be paid. Families require constant superintendence, and their daily expenditures demand a regular supply. Under these circumstances leisure for reading will be much circumscribed; but to peruse, for a few hours in the month, what, in all its variety of materials, amounts but to a pamphlet, could make no detrimental encroachment on the season of business. To recruit the human frame, fatigued with the labours of life, to prepare for further vigorous exertion and successful execution, recreation is essential. To what amusement can attention be directed with more advantage than to that which, while it refreshes the body, invigorates the mind?

Many large and elaborate literary works contain but few ideas. Some authors have attended to embellishment more than matter, and endeavoured to please the ear with musical sentences, and well rounded periods, rather than the understanding with substantial sentiment. Others display much dexterity in the art of dilation; barren in thoughts, proficients in verbosity, ambitious of making a book, they comprehend *parvum in multo*. Many large volumes of this description might be compressed into the small bounds of a few pages. It is presumed

that a Magazine is understood to be limited to a certain size, and seldom carries any of its topics beyond the limits of two or three numbers. Being a miscellany, it must contain considerable variety. Reason will demand that every subject introduced should receive some kind of complete discussion. A croud of correspondents, a multiplicity of passing events, an active world, and growing science will produce a press of materials. These will cut off all occasion of perplexity, and temptation to circumlocution; naturally lead to reject every thing superfluous and less important; and to comprise in the smallest intelligible bounds, the quintessence of information.

Though men participate of one common nature, completely homogeneous in its leading features; they yet widely differ in taste, dispositions, attachments, intellectual capacity, modes of thinking, and strength of imagination. The nearer that minds approximate to a similarity of powers, the better are they qualified to unite together; and, in their several operations, reciprocally please and instruct each other. From these premises it will follow, that, those writings must be most entertaining, one of whose prominent features is variety; and that any one author will most successfully please and instruct that reader whose soul bears the nearest resemblance to his own. That a Magazine or Gazette, not being the production of one mind, as most books are, but of many, is consequently calculated to entertain as many, and though there are other publications of the miscellaneous kind, yet, if written by an individual, they will please no more than a single class of readers having souls of similar construction. Moreover, the work that has been compiled from many good authors, or has been composed by a company, is yet vastly inferior to the Magazine, in the important consideration of not being a *periodical* miscellany. But why so much inferior? Answer, because man has such an unlimited curiosity, and insatiable taste for novelty, that, he has no sooner feasted upon, and digested one course of varied literary entertainment, than he is disposed to gratify his mental appetite with another.

A Magazine takes a retrospect of past times; it revives those valuable things that were ready to perish by the lapse of time, preserves from destruction and annihilation what was subjected to the corroding rust of antiquity, or about to be lost in the mist of distance; presents again and again, with no unnecessary repetition, those important subjects that ought to be kept alive in the world. It explores the treasures of ancient learning, and selects what is worthy of being modernised, and adapted to present purposes. It is a free and public stage, upon which imagination, wit, and taste may exhibit their fascinating powers; where genius may display his inventions and refined improvements; where learning is invited to figure in all her arts and eloquence, and common sense to perform for the pleasure and improvement of the promiscuous multitude.

A Magazine travels abroad for the patriotic purpose of making practical observation upon the transactions of the world, and importing whatever may promote the prosperity and happiness of that region which gave it birth, and by which it expects to be cherished. It resides at home to improve the agriculture, enrich the fields, and promote the fertility of its native soil; to ameliorate the condition of cheerless poverty, to encrease and enlarge commerce, improve trade and manufactures, to support the independence and national spirit of the country, polish its manners, improve its morals, and eventually advance the public good.

As the nation's official servant, it notes and records important passing events, as revolving time presents them to view. It watches the motions, and stimulates to repel the aggressions of foreign and domestic foes. It guards against damping the spirits, or injuring the health and vigour of the nation; by depicting her as distressed with evils that are only imaginary, or by giving gloomy exaggerations of those that are real. Danger is pointed out but with the view of urging her to meet it with stability and heroism. Her disabilities and grievances are delineated for the purpose of obtaining reform and redress; solely by the influence of reason, and the prevalent claims of

justice. Caution is ever exercised against kindling and cherishing in her bosom that blind zeal and party-spirit, which scatter around them fire-brands, arrows and death. Disaffection and libertine phrenzy are not permitted to disseminate their inflammatory libels against peace, liberty, and good order; even though they should come forward under the specious mask of disinterested patriotism and public spirit.

Where a critical review of new publications is admitted, it unquestionably forms an important item in the contents of a Magazine. In the impartial and judicious management of criticism every author receives his due; whether he be an eminent personage, or one moving in an humble sphere, coincide with the critics peculiar sentiments and prejudices, or differ from them. A gratifying tribute of praise is paid to genuine merit; ignorance and insolence are exposed; what is injurious, worthless, or of immoral tendency is stigmatised as infamous. The wheat is separated from the chaff, froth and rubbish are swept away, and worth preserved; sterling coin is distinguished from what is counterfeit, and an attempt made to discover that alloy which intermingles with the purest metals. An opportunity is given for the advanced and aspiring student, to gain instruction upon the needful subject of English composition. The public are preserved from wasting their money upon those publications, or spending precious time in perusing those that are false in their theory, or vicious in their contents and design; or that are replenished with emptiness, though they should be addressed to the world, under the artful disguise of splendid gilding, and pompous titles, or recommended by great names. Petty scribblers, with all their affected cant of despising criticism, become afraid to peep from obscurity, while talent is called to exertion; encouraged, and crowned with honour.

Ballynahinch.

S. E.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

I AM as unwilling to occupy much of your pages with controversy, as you can be to admit me; for I greatly dislike the spirit of controversy, and

have seldom found good effects, or the conviction of an opponent, to result from it. I write to clear myself from some misrepresentations of Criticus in your last number. I pass, without further reprehension, his concluding paragraph, in which he attempts to school me, in terms sufficiently dogmatical, for reasoning on complex ideas. But I particularly object to his unfairness in questioning my motives, which he considers as only *apparently* on the side of justice and liberality. In my former letter, I took up my pen really on that side: I blamed an error hostile to the Catholics, and was a sincere advocate in the cause of justice. My political creed as connected with theology, is a short one: I think no man should be questioned for his religious opinions, or suffer any political disabilities on account of them. Actions only are cognizable by the state. Actuated by the e sentiments, I am a sincere and unequivocal friend to Catholic emancipation. I can excuse the irritability of Criticus, in mistaking a friend for an enemy, in the same manner as I would pardon a man who had been ill used in a crowd, and who gave me a blow, because I was the first person with whom he met afterwards; and to this very circumstance, which I previously supposed might possibly occur, I alluded when I spoke of "the passions of the two opposite parties." I wish that my Catholic brethren should enjoy every political right in its fullest extent: having no inclination to encroach on their right of private judgment, I claim the same for myself; if I think they have prejudices, I would not like to flatter them, but speak my sentiments in the spirit of free discussion. For I think a too common error in politics, lies, in going with one party or other in all their prejudices, and because we see cause on the whole to join on one side of the question, on that account to enter into a defence of all the collateral branches connected with it. Criticus altogether mistakes me, if he supposes I desire the King to be invested with any power over the nomination of the Catholic Bishops. I object as well to the interference of the King

as of the Pope, and I am pleased to find that Criticus confirms me in the opinion, that there is nothing in the plan I mentioned inconsistent with the ancient strict canonical mode of their church. A numerous body of Catholics in England, at the head of whom was the late Lord Petre, and the late highly respectable and enlightened Dr. Geddes, strongly advocated this mode a few years ago, and exposed themselves to much censure from the bigoted party on this very account.

To enliven the dryness of a controversial reply, I shall give a quotation from a respectable work lately published,* the author of which is a Catholic, to show the ancient manner of that church appointing its Bishops. It probably may be new to some of your readers, and convey acceptable information to them. "The right of nominating to Bishopricks was finally settled, in Germany, by the Concordate of 1447, which confirmed the election of Bishops to the chapters exercising that right; in France, by the Concordate of 1516, which vested the nomination to Bishopricks, and the collation of certain benefices of the higher class, in the Kings of France; in Spain, by prescription, repeatedly allowed by the Popes, under which the Kings have uninterruptedly exercised the right of nominating Bishops, and in England, by the charter of King John, recognized and confirmed by his great charter, and by the 25th of Edward the third, Stat. 6. §.3; which gave up to the Chapters the free right of electing their Prelates."

CENSOR.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN your Magazine for September, your Correspondent, I.P. asserts that the premium on Gold, and the unfavourable exchange prove that bank paper, has suffered a depreciation, and in support of this opinion, he quotes Lord Lauderdale and other eminent writers on the subject. "That the

* Notes on the Revolutions of the German Empire. by Charles Butler; an interesting and valuable work, published in London, 1807.

difference between Gold and Paper, arises from the depreciation of the paper through the imprudence of bankers in the extravagant issue of bank notes," the evil tendency of which, is as I. P. says, "to force trade beyond the demands which support it, promote undue speculation, raise the price of manufacturing, cause a dearth of provisions, and subject the ignorant and poorer classes of the people to the chance of forgery." But with all due deference to such high authority, I am disposed to think that the difference between Gold and paper, and the unfavourable exchange may arise from other causes, and that the national paper may be found not to have suffered any depreciation whatever. The constant drain from this country, of the rent of absentee Landlords, and the comparatively small value of our exports, appear to me sufficiently to account for the high rate of exchange between England and Ireland, and if this did not appear previous to the restriction of the bank, it was owing to the facility of making payments in gold, which acted as a check on exchange, while the bank was obliged to procure a constant supply at its own expense; but the moment it became relieved from this obligation, exchange started to its real size, and gold required a premium. The unsettled state of affairs on the continent, making gold of greater value there, would in a similar way occasion the unfavourable foreign exchange, and the premium of 2½ per cent, which I. P. says was paid for gold in London.

As a circulating medium, gold has the advantage of greater durability, and is perhaps less liable to be counterfeited, being more easily detected; in other respects, paper seems to be altogether as convenient for the purposes of commerce, and has the advantages of being of very little value, easily created, and always at hand to supply the wants of trade, in any quantity which may be required, while by employing gold, a larger portion of the produce of the country which goes to procure it, remains as dead unproductive stock, withdrawn from the useful capital of the country, and is liable to be occasionally car-

ried abroad, leaving a too scanty circulation, which could not always be speedily supplied.

The illiberality of bankers in confining their accommodation and of course their issue of paper has often been complained of, but it is scarcely to be believed that they will act "imprudently or improvidently" towards themselves, they are not likely to give their paper without sufficient value or security, nor are traders likely to take at interest more than they have occasion to employ; thus the quantity in circulation, can seldom be too great, and must soon regulate itself. Nor can I agree with I. P. in the evils he apprehends. If trade is by any means forced beyond the demands which support it, or undue speculation undertaken, the remedy attends, and will soon reduce both within proper bounds, and the effects of raising the price of manufactures, and enhancing the price of the necessities of life, I rather consider as advantages, the consequence of flourishing commerce, which adds to the conveniences and comforts of the most useful class of mankind, by encouraging industry, and encreasing the value of labour, hence arise ingenious contrivances to abridge it, and the progressive improvement of our manufactures.

The sudden stagnation of trade, must unavoidably produce much inconvenience and distress, but perhaps paper does not any more than gold, tend to increase this evil, further than as it promotes and cherishes commerce, proportional to the extent of which, must be the inconvenience attending the sudden interruption of it.

I do not wish to take up too much of your room, and only venture these few remarks, in hopes that they may help to lead to the discussion of this subject of general interest, others better qualified for it than your humble servant

A MANUFACTURER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
IN your Magazine for September last, you have inserted (page 26) an extract from "Rawson's Survey of Kildare," professedly intended to

prove the superiority of the drill culture of Potatoes, over that of the lazy-bed one; it appears to me, that it shows the direct contrary. The extract, or the work itself, is I presume incorrect; it credits the lazy-bed process, with only one acre's produce, and debits it with eight acre's expense; correct this, and I trust my assertion will be evinced—thus

Dr. Lazy-bed process.

To expenses on eight acres,	23	13	4
Bal. profit,	176	6	8
	£200	0	0

Cr.

By produce of eight acres	200	0	0
	£200	0	0

Dr. drill process.

To expenses on eight acres,	27	11	4
Bal. profit	168	8	8
	£196	0	0

Cr.

By produce of eight acres.	196	0	0
	£196	0	0

Comparison,

Profit on lazy-bed process	176	6	8
Do. on drill do.	168	8	8

Profit, more by Lazy-bed than by drill. } £7 18 0

I will endeavour to ascertain the better mode, and inform you of the result if you wish it. If you can prevail on the gentlemen farmers of this country, to send you the account of their experiments and novel practises, you will by communicating them, render an essential service to the community, and may do as much towards promoting the interest of the plough in this kingdom, as my friend and late neighbour, the great Arthur Young, has done in that way, in England. If I might take the liberty of recommending, it would be, that you reject all anonymous communications. Mr. Young in his "Annals of Agriculture" set out with that determination, and while he stuck to it the work was in high repute, and had a ready sale, but the moment he departed from it, the work and the art it was intended to benefit, suffered considerably. I am, sir your obedient servant.

WM. GOOCH.

Castle-Upton, Jan. 9th, 1809.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

I FULLY agree with your correspondent A. Z. in reprobating the

system of dividing farms for the sake of multiplying votes, to be enrolled as so many cattle, to increase the interest of a landlord at an election; but I materially differ from him, as to the want of comfort possessed by the occupiers of small farms. I have in one of the commercial reports expressed my sentiments on that subject, before I saw his paper. I have now only to add, that I think the instances quoted by his friend, of the years of scarcity, 1800 and 1801, ought to be viewed as exceptions to the general rule. The cause of scarcity in those years is to be traced to the deficient harvest of 1799, which owing to the lateness of the spring, and the wet of the summer and harvest, failed in producing the usual supplies; so that the stocks of the small farmers were soon consumed by their own families, and they were altogether dependent on the market for their provisions afterwards; and having their usual rent and taxes to pay, they were in these years in a worse situation than many of their neighbours, who occupied no land. But this case I apprehend was an exception to the general rule, for in the course of my experience among working people, particularly as the proprietor of a bleach-green, I have uniformly found that those who occupied a few acres of ground lived more comfortably than those who had only a house and small garden. As an employer I may have had cause sometimes to complain that my work may have suffered through their attention to their own business, but I am satisfied that they and their families were rendered more comfortable by the possession of their little allotment of land. What humane employer would not be willing to abate something of his own advantage, to promote the happiness of those employed by him? Though in this case, and also in the worse management of their farms there may be a deduction from the stock of national wealth, yet any drawback of this kind is, in my estimation, more than compensated by the increased comforts attending the system of small farms.

If A. Z.'s friend had viewed the wretchedness of the inmates of some of the poor houses in the bye-lanes, and of some of the lodging houses in the principal streets of Lisburn, at that period,

as some others did, he would probably have changed his opinion on the comparative advantage of the poor dwelling in towns. Of all pitiable situations, I consider the poor of towns to suffer most, and probably their sufferings are generally increased in proportion to the size of the towns. For the justness of this assertion, I appeal to that part of Dublin called the Liberty, and to St. Giles, and similar places in London, where, in addition to the usual miseries of poverty, the want of fresh air, the contagion of disease, and the no less baneful influence of bad example form an aggregate of evils distressing to humanity. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOU have so readily inserted my former strictures upon the Commercial Report of your first number, and your Reporter has replied in a tone so calm and temperate, that I am convinced he is an advocate for free discussion; this has induced me to offer some more observations on this important subject, the Circulation of Paper Money.

This writer alledges in his reply, that the difference in our opinions arises from the circumstance, that my view of the subject is from books, and his in the "school of experience, where practical lessons are given on the subject, the 'Change of Belfast;" but to this I would answer, that it is by books we should make the experience of others our own, and we are informed, that in every country where Bank-notes have circulated (not convertible into specie) bankruptcy has followed. Those countries read us practical lessons in the school of experience, by which we should learn wisdom. This system of pushing guineas out of circulation is not of great antiquity in any country; and on the Belfast 'Change, it is an innovation which has been recommended, but not yet put into practice; therefore, it is too soon to speak by experience there. I have no doubt but the merchant has experienced great difficulty in procuring gold upon change, and he is apt to complain, that the discount is a heavy tax

upon trade; that guineas are tools in the hands of money-jobbers; but he should consider that by putting down this kind of jobbing, he raises up another of a much more dangerous kind, that is, the new fashion of conducting banks, which are so many mints for coining of paper-money. The merchant who wishes to free himself from paying the discount on gold, as a tax upon trade, should consider that a reduction in the value of money, and an advance in the price of produce, are synonymous terms, or in other words, that the goods which he exports must go much dearer to market, when the circulating medium is increased in quantity, and consequently depreciated. When it is in the power of bankers to emit as much as they please of this easy coinage, they possess great advantages over the other members of the community, they can sweep the gold into their own coffers, they can assist those who are inclined to over-trading, which injures the community at large. The banker who receives a discount for the use of his paper, has been compared, by a late writer, to the keeper of a gaming-table, and the frequency of the transaction is represented as absorbing the floating wealth of the country. The profit of the bankers consists in the extent of their paper issues, by this means their gains and the benefit of the public has been considered to be at variance, they bring the public under a heavy contribution annually, the interest of the circulating medium. This annuity has been estimated at a million and a half in England, what it amounts to in this country would be difficult to calculate, but it has increased, is encreasing, and ought to be diminished; by the disuse of guineas, and the establishment of so great a number of banks, this annuity will be augmented. When we recollect that the national bank in a short space of time, after it withheld its payment in specie quintupled its quantity of notes, we may expect that the quantity in circulation in a few years more will be truly alarming; this bears hard upon those who have a stated income, it places the necessaries of life beyond the reach of honest industry; it will add to the wealth of the wealthy, but its tendency is to beggar the multitude; hence it is,

that it has been observed in England, that the alms-houses and work-houses, rise by the side of the palace, although taxation has had a considerable share in causing this evil, yet a depreciated paper currency has contributed greatly to the same end; and in the British metropolis, it appears by a calculation that was made some time ago, that the number of the poor amounted to eight in an hundred of the population: although the erection of houses for public charity increases daily, yet they never keep pace with the progress of indigence and misery. In the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, we perceive the following observation, "the poor-rate is the barometer, which marks in all the apparent sunshine of prosperity, the progress of internal weakness and debility, and as trade and manufactures are extended, as our commerce encircles the terraqueous globe, it increases with a fecundity most astonishing; it grows with our growth, and augments with our strength; its root, according to our present system, being laid in the vital source of our existence and prosperity."

Through the medium of the Belfast News-papers we are informed that the number of beggars daily increases, notwithstanding the different charitable Institutions for the provision of the poor; and in the course of last summer, the Sovereign and many of the principal inhabitants of Belfast, addressed the Lord Lieutenant about the high price of provisions. Will not the increase of notes from three new banks, cause an addition to the evils complained of? I do not expect that the tears of helpless infants, crying for bread will prevent the bankers from carrying on their lucrative employment, but the public should not assist in the circulation of provincial bank paper, when there is more than enough already, afloat from the national bank. The earl of Liverpool, in a recent publication, addressed to the King, says "that certain descriptions of paper currency have, from a thirst for gain been carried on by many, and a love of speculation been defended by others, to an extravagant and dangerous extent." As this nobleman enjoys the confidence of his majesty, no

doubt his advice will be attended to in this instance, as it has been on many important matters. If his lordship and others of his majesty's counsellors, during Mr. Pitt's administration, had duly weighed this danger, it would have been well for these countries.

That minister procured an indirect repeal of the provision of the fifth of William and Mary, by which the bank was prohibited from lending to government, without the authority of parliament; this was one of the many statutes which he got enacted, to increase the influence of the crown, at the expense of the constitution. Engaged in a war, which to use the words of Mr. Fox, originated from an inveterate hatred to liberty, he drew the gold out of the bank, and transported it to the Continent. He disregarded the sound maxims of Dr. Adam Smith, one of which is, that a "prince, anxious to maintain his dominions in a state at all times, in which he can most easily defend them, ought to guard against that excessive multiplication of paper money, which fills the greater part of the circulation of the country with it. An unsuccessful war, for example, in which the enemy got possession of the capital, and consequently of that treasure which supported the credit of the paper money, would occasion much greater confusion in a country where the whole circulation was carried on by paper, than in one where the greater part of it was carried on by gold and silver; the prince would not have wherewithal to pay his troops, or to furnish his magazines." The merchant who is anxious for laying aside guineas, should pay attention to the following observation, "that commerce and industry are not so secure when they are suspended on the Daedalian wings of paper money, as when they travel about upon the solid ground of gold and silver." The Wealth of Nations has been considered by some of the best critics as one of the most valuable publications of the last century, but the writer of the Commercial Report says that I attach more importance than he is willing to allow to those whom he calls closet theorists, such as Lords King and Lauderdale, Messrs. Foster and Parneil. He informs us that time has discovered some of their theoretical

reasonings to be satisfactory, as he finds them attributing the high course of exchange in Dublin, which was then at 17½ to 18½ per cent, to the excessive issue of bank paper, when now with a more extensive issue, it has not for a considerable time generally exceeded 10 per cent, and is at present about 8½ per cent; but he should recollect that at the time exchange was so high, the discount on notes was a great deal higher than it is at present. The alarm of invasion had the same effect here, which he says caused a premium on gold in England, and it must be admitted that these writers allowed that other causes operated to cause a variation in the rates of exchange, a balance of debt; this depends upon whatever country is debtor or creditor. In the debtor country the bills on the creditor country will be scarce, and of course, dear; the supply, as Mr. Foster expresses it, being universal as the demand; so that the state of exports, imports, and the number of absentees varies the state of exchange. This balance of debt has a known invariable limit, which is the expense of transmitting gold from one country to another, which Mr. Foster calculates at 2 per cent, and he says, that there has been annually a balance in favour of this country, of more than half a million, at the time that exchange was so high, so that a depreciation of notes must have caused the high exchange.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE TEN DAYS OF HAPPINESS.

THE following Narrative cannot fail of being acceptable to all lovers of Eastern learning; it is translated from an inestimable MS. in the Coptic tongue, found in the gallery of the great Pyramid at Cairo, by the Abbe Mirleton. The facts which it records throws new light upon a well known character, deservedly accounted the greatest of all the successors of Mahomet.

On a fine summer evening, towards the end of the month Ramadan, the Caliph Haroun al Raschid, attended by Giafar, his Vizir, and Mesrour, his chief Eunuch, all in disguise, took boat at the bridge of Bagdad. It is not unknown to the learned, that this

Caliph was wont frequently to take such rambles. He ordered the waterman to row them two miles up the Tigris; "We'll go visit," said he, "Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, the Philosopher. I am of opinion that philosophy is a very pretty pastime, when one is tired of tennis and cricket." Accordingly they landed at the garden of Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, and found that famous man, preparing a bed for cucumbers, with straw and the dung of asses. He received them very philosophically, tossing his spade and bespattering them with his compost. "Friend Haroun," quoth he to the Caliph, "thou knowest I have no high opinion of thy noddle. I have more than once told thee so, civilly as in duty bound; for philosophy teacheth us humility and courtesy; the happiest hour of thy reign, was that in which I first condescended to honour thee with my familiarity; thou hast gained more sound knowledge from my conversation, than from the sermons of all the Imams in Bagdad; thou hast not in thy court my equal." "Except Aboul Junker, the rope dancer," said the Caliph, "I know none." "Sacred pigeon of our holy Prophet," cried Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, "let us not waste our most precious time in vain gabbling; here are idle spades; Commander of the Faithful, first of the human race, deign to take one. Believe me, your famous sword, Sam-samah, with which you subdued so many nations, is not in the eye of philosophy a more estimable weapon; Giafar, thou shadow of majesty, here is another for thee; prime ministers have no right to disdain dirty work; and most venerable Eunuch, lo! a third for thee; thou art thyself but a most miserable vegetable, do what little good thou canst in thy generation.

The Caliph smiling, took the spade, his officers though not smiling, followed his example. For some minutes they tossed the dung about, silently and awkwardly. The Caliph little accustomed to the tasks of horticulture, soon felt his wind fail; and leaning on his spade, spoke thus to the philosopher, "I suppose, learned sir, you mean to give us a practical illustra-

tion of our Prophet's infallible doctrine, that human happiness consists in action?" Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, answered and said, "Human happiness, what is that? I have travelled over all the East, but never saw it. At Aleppo, I conversed with two travellers, who boasted of having explored the Northern regions; one of them affirmed, that he had seen men perfectly happy; another made oath that he had handled a red hot snow ball. I took a staff and belaboured them both soundly. I sojourned for a season at the court of Seged, Lord of Ethiopia. A whim struck him of being completely happy on an island in the Lake of Dembea: he took every possible precaution for producing that blessed effect; yet those ten days brought forth nothing but vexation and misery; you shall hear how. On the first day,"—"Body of me," quoth the Caliph, "after delving in asses' dung till I am out of breath, do you think I shall listen patiently to the history of ten miserable days? a pretty philosopher truly! besides, I know the story already, and I know moreover, that it shall be published to the world, in a language called English, by a man named Samuel Johnson, about the year of the Hegira 930, if Allah allows our world to exist so long. Do not marvel at my prophesying so punctually. Am not I the representative of the great Prophet?" "Be that as it may" replied Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, "I hold the attempt of Seged to have been presumptuous and absurd, and I hope it will be a warning to all succeeding generations; that no man hereafter may, presume to say, this day shall be a day of happiness." "Aye," said the Caliph, "and here is Mesrour, who to my knowledge, hath attended to your philosophical discourses these three years, yet is no philosopher; and I hope it shall be a warning to all succeeding generations, that no man may hereafter presume to say, I will be a philosopher. Darii, Ferio, Baralipion! what sort of argument call you this, with regard to the disappointment of Seged, in his scheme of happiness? I can only say, that good and bad, luck are dealt about

after such measures as neither you nor I can fathom. He projected for himself ten happy days, and each of them failed; why then lament, therefore? but this would tale concerns not me; 'tis past and gone. Futurity is to us a non-entity; we may carve it out as we please—and I this moment declare—that in spite of Seged and all his lamentations, I will be happy for ten days to come."

"Very well," said the Philosopher, "and pray what scheme do you propose for to-morrow's happiness?" "None?" replied the Caliph, "scheming was the rock on which your friend Seged wrecked his venture of felicity. He conceived projects; they miscarried, and he was miserable. I will transfer the toil of invention, and the chagrin of disappointment to others. Giafar, be it your charge to advertise my trusty friends, Isaac Ben Phiddal and Jacob Ben Bottal, of my purpose. Let them be constituted masters of revels for the ten ensuing days." "Nonsense," cried the philosopher, "if you will not listen to sound reasoning let us try, what *sound reasoning* can do. I bought a boy the other day from a rascally grinning Jew. What ho! Arassid; he sings well, and tickles a lute right cunningly. Now I have given him a song to coon, quite suitable to our present topic. I love mightily, and upon every occasion, to rail at this world and all things in it." Arassid then approaching with a timid and diffident air, seated himself on a green bank, and having played some flourishes on his lute, warbled with infinite grace these verses:

DELUSIVE all and vain are human joys,
The young unhappy Selim sighing said,
As to the midnight sky he raised his
voice,

Wild wandering in a dark and heathy
shade.

What is there real to man, alas! but
pain!

And what of joy that proves not false
and vain.

This soul, the breath of heaven within us
plac'd,

That moves and feels all o'er our won-
drous frame,

With energies divine enriched and grac'd,
Why could it never yet remain the same?

Bager each bliss in nature's bounds to
 drain,
 And then to spurn them all, as false and
 vain.

Heroes, and ye that drench the world in
 blood,
 Conquerors, enamour'd of bright empire's
 blaze,
 That gleams through clouds afar in fran-
 tic mood,
 Wasting in fields of toil your noblest
 days,
 Soon, though ye grasp the universal rein,
 Soon will ye, weeping, quit a task so vain.

See you gay travellers, in the massy hall,
 Secure from night and storm, all decked
 in smiles;
 For wine, for jest, and song, by turns
 they call,
 But varied luxury all thought bequiles;
 And if by chance another day they gain,
 With rueful face they'll curse their or-
 gies vain.

Sunk on a couch of silk, Zemindar lies,
 On Zara's bosom lull'd, clasped in
 her arms,
 He wakes to transports new, he fiercely
 flies,
 And rifles unopposed her glowing
 charms:
 Sure that is bliss—let him but sleep again,
 And waking he'll confess this false and
 vain.

Er'n ye who boast this passion to refine,
 From the low dregs of gross mortality,
 Who dream of pants, and sympathies
 divine,
 Th' angelic feeling, and respondent sigh,
 Still the same growling period must ob-
 tain,
 Made by your art more exquisitely vain.

The sage that weighs the stars in his proud
 thought,
 And to their circling worlds of light
 gives law,
 Quick from that daring flight, by hun-
 ger brought,
 Obeys the cravings of his carnal maw.
 To pye and pudding, from th' Ethereal
 plain,
 How vast the fall, and the ascent how
 vain.

Yet wisdom, love, wine, glory, each poor
 wight,
 That treads this earth, infatuate must
 pursue;
 Blest only when the race is done, when
 night,
 The night of death, removes them from
 the view,

To shades, where sleep and sweet oblivion
 reign,
 Unbroken by such hollow phantoms
 vain.

Blest moment, that shall wrap my heart
 in peace,
 By hope and disappointment torn no
 more,
 When this flat, stale, dull, scene to me
 shall cease,
 And I some happier region may explore;
 Not the vast globe itself could tempt me
 then,
 To tread once more a tract so false and
 vain.

During the song, the Caliph showed
 no small emotion, and gazed with
 eagerness on the tuneful Arassid. At
 the conclusion he said to the philoso-
 pher, "your boy is a delightful crea-
 ture. He is qualified to sing in Para-
 dise; and if I find no worse there
 I assure you I hope for no better.
 Never before did I hear an air so
 enchanting, set to such good for no-
 thing verses; so my faithful friend,
 good night." The philosopher con-
 ducted his visitors to the river's bank,
 and promising to be at court next
 morning, with a solemn benediction,
 bade them adieu.

As they rowed gently down the
 Tigris, the Caliph raved about the
 singer Arassid; his supple attendants
 echoed his opinion, in the language
 of exaggerated and fulsome adulation;
 which far from pleasing him, seemed
 nauseous and disgusting, when he com-
 pared it with the familiar address, and
 unrestrained contradictions of honest
 Ebn Mulish.

When he arrived at the palace, the
 night was far advanced; he imme-
 diately retired to his chamber and
 ascending the alcove, wished for pro-
 found sleep, but he wished in vain.
 The song he had heard, and the
 singer, perpetually haunted his fancy.
 He made the signal for the musi-
 cians in the antichamber to play,
 hoping their soft strains, as they had
 often done, would lull him to repose.
 This expedient produced no better
 effect; the softest touch of their lutes
 seemed harsh, the silver wires of their
 harps, scarce trembling, brayed rough
 in his ear; and the song, though one
 which before had enchanted him, now
 only enchanted by recalling to his

mind, the voice of Arassid. He commanded them to cease; and was about to deliver himself a prey to chagrin, when he suddenly reflected that he possessed within himself a power of self-accommodation, and that in the conscious possession of this power more than in all his state, his own superiority consisted. "Shall I," said he, "imitate the silly girl, who the other day, cried herself into a fever for the loss of a nightingale! Except the divine Zorayma, whom I heard on the banks of the Teflis and whom I never can forget, Arassid certainly excels all mortals. But a singer more or less shall not break the repose of Al Raschid." This happy reflection induced a pleasing self-complacency, which was quickly followed by refreshing sleep. He was waked by a loud noise in the anti-chamber, caused by a contention for the mastery between Isaac Ben Phiddal, and Jacob Ben Bottal, each claiming the right of regulating the happiness of the day, and each proposing a different scheme.

The arguments with which they supported their respective rights of priority, made the Caliph laugh heartily. He forthwith summoned the whole court to attend in the great council hall, and ordered the contending parties to plead their cause at large. The previous question, who should plead first was determined by lot, in favour of Isaac Ben Phiddal. That eloquent gentleman then held forth his right of precedence, in a speech of five hours and forty minutes; at the conclusion of which, Jacob Ben Bottal, being called upon to reply, was found fast asleep. After yawning and stretching himself, he pronounced emphatically these words, "brethren let us go to dinner." The hall resounded with a thousand shouts of applause, and every voice proclaimed the victory of Ben Bottal. The morning thus passed happily, because busily; a day of employment can hardly be unhappy.

The Caliph passed the night calmly, though not without a dream of Arassid. He fancied he saw that youth, in a woman's dress, singing and playing an air of most bewitching tenderness; his brow bound with roses, and his

eyes sparkling with pleasure. The lovely vision eluded his grasp, vanished with a smile, and left him half-waking in voluptuous melancholy. He arose, and according to custom, went to prayers. As he returned from the mosque, he was astonished to hear an inconceivable variety of musical sounds at once fill the air; he looked around and saw his attendants, his guards, the people in the streets, in the windows, and on the house tops, all performing on musical instruments. He turned to enquire of Giafar what this meant, and beheld that able statesman grinning ruefully, and twanging a Jew's-harp between his teeth. He next applied to Meirour; the Eunuch answered by a flourish on a child's whistle; Ben Phiddal played on a rebeck; Ben Bottal on a rebble, and the Philosopher Ebn Mulish himself sounded a mighty ram's horn; in short he heard cornets, sackbuts, dulcimers, marrow-bones and cleavers, psalteries, tambours-de-basso, and piano-fortes, nor could he divine the cause of this musical uproar, till he reached the gate of the palace and perceived an edict which Isaac Ben Phiddal had fixed there; importing that whoever during nine days, should appear in the presence of the Caliph, without playing on some instrument of music, should be set in the stocks; the absurdity of this device amused him for a while. In the evening, having previously sent to take down Ben Phiddal's edict, he supped in public with the court; contentment and good humour presiding over the repast. This night, in a dream, he saw Zorayma, the Circassian princess, of whom three years before he had been deeply enamoured. She appeared more beautiful than ever, but with her former coldness rejected his vows, even when in the ardour of passion, he offered her the rank of sole Sultana. She told him that she could not be; for though he took her for a princess, she was in fact no more than the daughter of his friend Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung. At this whimsical information he burst out a laughing, and awoke. Jacob Ben Bottal now took his turn, as president of the third day's pleasure; he being a man of profound thought,

was much puzzled what course to take, he had risen early, and seating himself on a bench, by the gate of the palace, entered into profound meditation, in which he continued for many hours without coming to any certain result. His mind was wholly divided between two plans, whether he should order the most famous orators and poets to entertain the public by a display of their talents, or issue an edict commanding the whole court to engage in a general game of blind-man's buff. The Caliph whose disposition was naturally gelastic, being informed of this important decision, almost split his sides laughing. Composing himself by degrees, he went into a balcony to behold the sport, which was exhibited in the inner court, and continued, with uninterrupted expressions of satisfaction until sunset. On the fourth morning, Isaac Ben Phiddal undertook a magnificent plan of happiness. He proposed that the Caliph should make a triumphal progress through the city, accompanied by the chief personages of the court, but especially by Ben Phiddal himself, who should be the principal figure in the procession; he affirmed that such a show would make all the shopkeepers and petty artizans completely happy; and of consequence communicate by reflection, the most supreme delight to the Commander of the Faithful himself; accordingly this parade began immediately after noon prayers. The Caliph rode first on a mule, Ben Phiddal followed in a superb litter, from whence he declaimed to the people on each side, standing up, extending his arms and exhorting them to be as happy as he was. Along two or three streets he continued this mode of exhortation, still affirming strongly that he himself was happy, and perhaps many people believed him: but at length the vehemence of his affirmation seemed to abate, his voice faltered, and divers uncouth contortions took place in his countenance. He sat down wriggling and edgiting; a furlong further, he owned he was unhappy; three yards more he roared that he was miserable. The procession now ended. The hero descended from his litter, bolted into the back yard of a savansera and disappeared.

The Caliph was at first alarmed, but observing Ben Bottal tittering aside, and recollecting that he had seen him give his rival a glass of Sherbet, just before they set out, he presently comprehended the matter. The misery of Ben Phiddal had a speedy and happy conclusion; he soon returned, but refused to renew his parade, and retired in dudgeon to his apartment in the palace. He had now no other employment but to contemplate the innumerable casualties which lie in ambush on every side to intercept the happiness of man, and break in upon the hour of tranquillity and delight. But his private calamity proved a public advantage, and furnished matter of merry speculation for the remainder of the evening. Next day for lack of better invention, Ben Bottal resumed his abandoned design of exhibiting the orators and poets. For the encouragement of candidates, he proposed prizes of value, without reserving to himself the office of supreme judge. After a vast number of competitors had displayed their abilities; Ben Bottal assigned the prize of rhetoric to a man, who possessed the astonishing faculty of communicating his sentiments on the most abstruse subjects, though born dumb; and the poetical prize he awarded to a cobbler, whose verses were indeed very indifferent, but it was proved that he had written them with the point of his awl. This cobbler poet received his reward with the most ridiculous affectation of dignity, saying, "I pocket your money, but I care not a fig for your patronage; I was bred to the last, and am independent." In the evening the Caliph reclined on a sofa, amusing himself with the sage decisions of Ben Bottal, when the philosopher Ebn Mulish entered the chamber. "Welcome, Doctor," said the Caliph, "you see we come happily on." "O yes," said Ebn Mulish, "half your time is past, but yet you have no reason to exult. Reflect how much of your happiness has resulted from the follies and absurdities of our fellow-creatures; reflect how much more of it has resulted from mere chance, then tell me what part of it you can call your own work?" "The causes of happiness," replied the Caliph,

“or of pleasure, which is the same thing, will seldom bear a minute scrutiny; I shall be satisfied with myself if I can make the best of things as they occur, without diving in search of unnecessary knowledge. Life, says the great prophet is a stream; if so, let me be a cork or feather, let me slip merrily down the dancing waves, and kiss every flower that blooms on the margin: better thus, than like a block or stone, roll along below, tumbling in cold and darkness.” At these words, Ebn Mulish threw his arms around the Caliph's neck, and in a tone of solicitude, asked, if no unsatisfied wish had disturbed his five days' happiness. “Ah! yes, I wished for Arassid and I dreamed of Zorayma!” The philosopher stepped to the door, and returned leading the lovely apparition which had haunted Al Raschid's dreams—“Here is Arassid—here is Zorayma! take her from a father's hand, I hope she will secure the remaining five days of happiness. Be not amazed noble prince the: Sultan of Circassia, hid in this disguise, has long studied your character. I saw your attachment to my daughter with pleasure, but wished to know the man thoroughly who should possess Zorayma; with her I took a secret journey, and settled near your court, forcing myself by affected bluntness on your notice. Now I know you, and once more take her. But O! Al Raschid, let not this vast accession of felicity disturb that happy, that philosophic serenity which I see you possess. Never think of yourself independently; nor dream, that because you are the greatest man in Bagdad, you are the second being in the universe. What is the universe, and what art thou? Commander of the Faithful is a pompous appellation; but who are the faithful? A handful of two-legged insects, crawling in a corner of a paltry planet, called the earth. The annihilation of a thousand earths, with all their inhabitants, would make no blank in the universe. Examine the boundless skies; new suns at times appear there, with worlds revolving round them, inhabited by myriads of creatures rejoicing in their light. For some centuries they beam in our heavens, and increase our nocturnal canopy, till the fatal night arrives which the

hand that formed them had marked for their extinction. The astronomer then looks in vain for them; the radiant orbs are vanished, their systems left in darkness, or hurled into confusion, and all animation there for ever lost. What is man?”

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

(Concluded from Page 354. No. V.)

THE Committee, after describing the state of society which had been produced in Africa by a trade calculated to destroy all confidence, to engender hatred, and spread desolation, observe:

“In such a dreadful state of society, what success could rationally be expected in any attempt to promote agriculture or legitimate commerce? The attempt was obviously hopeless; and even if there existed no other assignable cause for the small progress made by the Sierra Leone Company, in meliorating the condition of Africa, this seems to furnish a satisfactory solution of it.

The Committee, however, are desirous of cautioning the friends of the Institution against expecting any very great effects to be immediately produced, even by the cessation of the Slave Trade. Africa, exhausted by the expiring struggles of that ruinous traffic, may for a time be incapable of much exertion in other directions. On the coast especially, where the operation of the Society must commence, the population is so greatly thinned, by the excessive demands which have been made upon it, as to place very considerable difficulties in the way of the general diffusion of knowledge, and the general excitement of industry. Large districts in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, which, ten years ago, were comparatively populous, are now reduced to wastes, with hardly a trace of their former culture; and if an estimate were to be made of the existing population, for about seventy or eighty miles inland, on that district of coast which extends from the Rio Grande to Cape Palmas, with the exception of one state where some degree of security and improve-

ment is enjoyed in consequence of the adoption of the Mahomedan code, the average amount would probably be found to be less than seven persons to a square mile.

These facts, at the same time, are not of a nature which ought to have any effect in discouraging the exertions of the society. On the contrary, by displaying the magnitude of that work of beneficence and mercy in which it is engaged, they ought rather to redouble those exertions. The difficulties are great, but by no means insuperable. Though the Coast has been so greatly depopulated, yet the African continent is still possessed of an immense population. If security be given to the Coast, and encouragements held out to industry, the waste will soon be re-animated with new life. Labourers will migrate to the spot where their persons will be safe, and their labour productive. Men of commercial enterprize will be attracted to the points where the manufactures of Europe may be safely bartered for the productions of Africa; and the benefits of industrious occupation, of a fair and legitimate commerce, of order, justice and security, being once felt, they cannot fail to be duly appreciated and widely diffused.

But how, it will be asked, is that security which is the parent of industry, and of all those blessings which attend industry, to be attained? This is a subject which has occupied the attention of the Committee, and on which individual members of their body have favoured them with valuable suggestions; but as yet, it is one on which they are not prepared fully to enter. They will at present advert only to a single point connected with it.

One great (it may be almost said indispensable) step to the attainment of the security here spoken of, would be, to induce the other nations of the earth to follow the example which has been set them by Great Britain and America; and to relinquish the trade in Slaves. It cannot be denied that much of the success of any plan, which may be devised with a view to the improvement of Africa, will depend on the degree in which that trade is generally suppressed. At present,

indeed, the Portuguese settled at Brazil, are the only persons at liberty to carry it on. Whether they can be prevailed upon to abandon it, and whether any measures can be taken effectually to prevent British capital from swelling the negro population, and enlarging the cultivation of South America, at the expense of the protracted misery of the African continent and the eventual ruin of our own colonies, are questions which the Committee will not now discuss. It may, however, be possible to induce the Government of Brazil, if not wholly to abandon the Slave Trade, yet to confine it within certain limits, by forbidding the supply of any colony belonging to a foreign nation, and by restraining their traders to the Eastern Coast of Africa, or at least to that coast and the coast of Angola. This may be the more practicable, since, with the exception of not quite a thousand slaves, which have been annually taken by the Portuguese from their settlement of Bissao, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, their Slave Trade is, in point of fact, already confined within the limits which have been specified; and, should the Portuguese agree to this restriction, the African coast, from the 20th degree of N. lat. to the 4th or 5th degree of S. lat. an extent of about 2300 miles, would be entirely free from the European Slave Trade, at least during the continuance of the present war.

But, supposing this object to be attained, it must still require the utmost efforts, on the part of the friends of Africa, so to improve the present crisis, as that on the termination of the war, those powers who may wish to resume the Slave Trade, may find the Africans so much enlightened with respect to their true interests as to be proof against its temptations. Under these circumstances it seems unnecessary to endeavour to impress on the public, how very urgent is the call for exertion; and, with a view to that exertion, how important it is, that funds should be provided for giving effect to the beneficial designs of the institution.

The Committee, before they close their Report, will briefly advert to the measures which have been adopted, or are now taking by Government,

with respect to Africa; for although these measures do not fall within the scope of the Society's deliberations, they may in their consequences very materially advance its general objects.

Two ships of war were sent out to the Coast in the month of November last, with instructions to their Commanders, to prevent the infraction of the law for abolishing the Slave Trade, and to take every opportunity which might occur of reconciling the African Chiefs (who, it must be remembered, have very generally been Traders in Slaves) to this measure, and of explaining to them its beneficial tendency.

A commission, consisting of three gentlemen (two of whom possess considerable local knowledge) has also been appointed and will proceed in a few months to the Coast of Africa, for the purpose of minutely investigating the state of the different British settlements, and pointing out in what manner they may be made subservient to the great object of African civilization.

Much important information may also be expected from them respecting the capabilities of Africa in general, and the condition of her inhabitants, and the best means of improving both, to the mutual advantage of that continent and of Great Britain.

His Majesty's Government has further resolved to appoint a Court of Vice-Admiralty at Sierra Leone, for the purpose of giving more complete effect to the Act for abolishing the Slave Trade. The appointment of such a judicature is particularly desirable at the present moment, as otherwise all the vessels which may be seized under the Abolition Act must be carried to the West Indies for adjudication; a course which would be attended with a cruel protraction of the confinement on ship board of the captured Slaves. At Sierra Leone it will also be much easier than it would be in the West Indies, to dispose of these persons, agreeably to the humane provisions of the Act of Parliament. The system of free labour being already established at Sierra Leone, the introduction of any number of Negroes into that Colony, whether on the footing of free labourers or as apprentices for a

limited period, could be attended with none of those inconveniences which, it is alleged, would flow from it in our West India islands, and which, as the Committee understand, are deemed to be so considerable as to make it a question whether many of the persons already liberated in the West Indies under the operation of the Abolition Act shall not be sent back to Sierra Leone. A better chance will also be thus afforded for restoring some of the captured Slaves to their former connections; and some of them, after having enjoyed the advantage of instruction in agriculture and in other useful arts at the Colony, may possibly be beneficially employed in disseminating, in other parts of Africa, the knowledge which they may have thus acquired.*

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, &c. OF CARRICKFERGUS.

(Concluded from Page 334, No. V.)

ON the different branches of a small river called Wood-burn, the scenery of each is truly charming, the banks being covered with a profusion of natural shrubbery; the sheet of water is not very large, and consequently does not send forth that stunning noise which renders some cascades disagreeable; it is, to use the words of a learned author, "A uniform murmur, such as composes the mind to pensive meditation." The streams have also several lesser falls, besides the fore-mentioned;

....."And stealth, at last,

Along the mazes of the quiet vale."

Near the fall on the left, is a cave, hewn in a rock; it can be entered with some difficulty, and is pretty spacious. The Danish raths, or forts are very common here; I counted eight within three miles of the town, some of them very large, they are commonly called mounds, or forths, and believed by many to be the abode of fairies, &c.

I shall here mention the most memorable events of the place. About 320 years before Christ, Bergus the first, king of Scotland, founded the town.

* The cause of Burgus coming thither, is said to have been as follows; being af-

In 1178, Hugh de Lacy founded the castle; in 1316, it surrendered, after a long blockade, to the Scottish forces, under Edward Bruce; 1333, William de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, governor, was murdered by his own servants, who afterwards suffered here for the same; 1600, Arthur Chichester sallied forth with the garrison, and destroyed all the corn, hay, &c. in the adjacent country, which caused a dreadful famine the following year; 1639, a plan to deliver up the castle to the insurgents of Scotland was defeated by Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, and the chief agent executed; 1640, eight thousand infantry and one thousand cavalry were assembled here by him in excellent order, to oppose the Scots; 1641, Sir Phelim O'Neil resolved to possess himself of the town and castle, but being defeated on his way hither, he relinquished that plan; early in 1642, the garrison sallied out in the night, to the neighbouring district of Island-magee, and massacred upwards of thirty Roman Catholic families; April 1642, four thousand Scottish auxiliaries, under one Robert Munroe, took possession of the town and castle; 1648, general Monk surprised and took general Munroe, the Scottish commander, prisoner, and sent him to England. The Scots having sent the greatest part of their forces, paid by the parliament in Ireland, to fight against them in England; early in 1649, it surrendered to Lord Inchiquin; General Monk was taken prisoner, but most of his officers and soldiers entered into his majesty's service. November

dicted with a leprosy, he dreamed that if bathed in a well at this place, he would be cured immediately; he instantly repaired hither, and his dream is said to have been fulfilled. Tradition further adds, that this was the well inside the castle, which is dry these many years: the same tradition says he founded the castle.

† This horrid act is supposed to have been committed in revenge for the massacres of Lurgan, Portadown, &c. which is in some degree confirmed by a tradition current throughout the island, which says, that the Catholics prior to this had massacred all the protestants in an adjacent district.

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2d, 1649, the town and castle surrendered to Sir Charles Coote.

August 12th, 1689, Duke Schomberg arrived in the bay, with about sixty vessels, having on board near ten thousand men, but badly appointed, and disembarked the following day, at Groomsport, near Bangor. On marching to Belfast, the enemy retired to Carrickfergus, where several regiments were instantly detached with cannon; the place was then summoned in form, but not agreeing in the terms, batteries were raised; on the 22d, trenches were opened, and the siege carried on in form, till the 26th, when several breaches being made, and all things ready for an assault, the garrison surrendered, obtaining leave to go to Newry, where the Duke of Berwick, natural son of James the 2d, commanded. June 14th, 1690, king William landed here, attended by Prince George of Denmark, the Duke of Ormond, the Earls of Oxford, Scarborough and Manchester, the Hon. Mr. Boyle, and many persons of distinction, and was joined by several of the neighbouring gentlemen. October 1st, 1752, four men were killed at the castle, by the bursting of an old cannon, the gunner having waded her with wet hay.

February 21st, 1760, Commodore Thurot arrived in this bay, with the following ships; Belleisle, 44 guns, Le Bland 32, and Terpsichore 26, and proceeded to land about one thousand men, he then attacked the town and castle, the garrison consisting of about one hundred and eighty men, of general Brode's regiment (62d, mostly recruits), commanded by colonel Jennings, made a vigorous defence from the town-wall and gardens, and afterwards retreated into the castle, the enemy then attempted to force the castle gate, but was beat back with considerable loss; the garrison having now expended all its ammunition, were obliged to surrender on honourable terms. The enemy's loss is supposed to have been near forty killed; among whom were three officers, and between forty and fifty wounded, among whom were general Clobert: the garrison had two killed, and three wounded. Thurot was for landing at Whitehouse, and surprising Belfast, but to this plan the general objected, fearing to be harassed by

leaving a garrison in his rear. The re-embarkation took place on the 29th same month, at 4, P.M. in some confusion, being apprehensive of an attack on their rear*. September 1773, a most tremendous gust of wind from the S.W. passed through a part of this

* *Thurot's squadron was all captured on the 28th of the same month, by Captain Elliot, off the Isle of Mann; after a smart action of an hour and a half, in which Commodore Thurot was killed. His watch, a single cased gold one, is at present in possession of a gentleman near Belfast.*

district, tearing out of root several large trees, and blowing down hayricks, &c. May 1st, 1778, the famous Paul Jones, in the *Ranger*, arrived in this bay; the *Drake* frigate lying here, proceeding to reconnoitre, a desperate engagement ensued; when the Captain of the *Drake* being killed, and his second mortally wounded, she was forced to strike to this noted adventurer. In 1798, this castle was a state prison, and continued so for some years after. 1801, by the act of union, which took place this year, the corporation only returns one burgess to serve in parliament. S.M.S.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF JOS. DOMBEY,
TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF
M. DELEUZE.

THE names of literary men who acquire a reputation by their writings, descend to posterity, together with their discoveries; and should their contemporaries deny them justice, or envy seek to obscure their deserts, still their works remain a durable monument, and will at last establish their proper rank in literature. The history of the lives of such, though useful to point out the steps by which they advance to knowledge, and to diffuse more widely the general results of their labours, is not necessary to their fame.

Joseph Dombey was born at Macon on the 22d of February 1742. We have not been anxious to collect anecdotes of his youth; suffice it to say, that he took the degree of doctor of physic at Montpellier; in which city he first acquired a passion for natural history, and more especially botany, which he studied under M. Gouan. In stature he was tall and well made. His constitution was strong. His character naturally full of vivacity and gaiety, and thoughtless of either fortune or fame, he devoted himself with equal ardour to study and to pleasure. An enemy to all constraint, and considering his patrimony as sufficient for his demands, he was totally negligent of his affairs. Amiable and generous, he min-

gled with society without calculating the expense or loss of time. The morrow with him was ever a distant period.

Seemingly occupied during winter solely with the pleasures of the town, as soon as spring reanimated vegetation, he was attracted to the country by the flowers; in search of these he travelled through the southern provinces, and along the sea coasts, and when they were no longer to be found in the plains, he ascended the mountains, and staid there till driven away by the snow. For several months no one heard speak of him, nor was it known where he could be found. As long as his money lasted, he used it to facilitate his journeys; but when it was gone he knew how to do without it, travelling on foot, and living with the frugality of a hermit, till an opportunity offered of borrowing more; when, reckoning that he should soon have wherewithal to repay, he would, without hesitation, give exorbitant interest. Continuing thus to spend without calculation, when the time of payment came he found himself harrassed by his debts, and again had recourse to ruinous expedients for raising money. To this thoughtlessness he joined a most delicate sense of honour: his word was a sacred engagement. Unsuspicious and disinterested, his commerce with the world was easy and mild; but to this mildness was joined a firm-

ness, a bravery, and even a sort of pride suitable to a man who knew how to respect himself.

With a view to his proficiency in botany he removed to Paris in 1772, and on his arrival there presented to M. Bernard de Jussieu a very fine herbarium of the Pyrenees. He attended the lectures of this professor, as well as those of M. Lemonnier, and attached himself particularly to M. Thouin, all of whom entertained the highest idea of his talents and integrity. J. J. Rousseau, weary of a fame so fatal to his repose, was at this time seeking to console himself with the study of botany. This philosopher, meeting by accident with Dombey, was so much pleased with his frankness, and especially with his talking to him about nothing but plants, that he was desirous of having him for a companion in his botanical excursions, and conceived for him an intimate friendship.

In 1775, Jussieu being applied to by the controller-general, M. Turgot, for a botanist to go to Peru, in order to search for such useful plants as might be naturalized in Europe, recommended Dombey as every way fit for the undertaking, and the minister desired to see him; but being at that time ranging over the Alps, on his return from a journey to Berne, where he had been to pay a visit to the great Haller, he was not immediately to be found. M. Thouin addressed several letters to him, at different places; and the one directed to St. Claude finding him there on the 13th of August 1775, he set off immediately for Paris, presented himself to M. Turgot, and received orders to hold himself in readiness to depart for Madrid, from whence he was to proceed to Peru. He immediately procured whatever he thought necessary, settled with his creditors, to whom he secured a part of the salary of 3000 livres allotted him, and was extremely impatient to be gone; but as the necessity for making the project agreeable to the court of Spain occasioned a delay till the autumn of the following year, this time he employed in making himself acquainted with every branch of natural history, and more particularly with whatever related to the objects of his voyage.

He arrived at Madrid on the 5th of

November 1776, where he found the phlegmatic character of the persons with whom he had to deal, entirely opposite to his own, their indolence ill suited to his impatience, and their want of confidence altogether intolerable. The minister for the Indies, M. de Galves, wishing to join with him some Spanish botanists to collect for Spain, as he should do for France, two pupils of M. Ortega and two draftsmen were appointed for this purpose, with a salary of 10,000 livres each. Instructions were drawn up, by which even Dombey's pursuits were to be regulated; for he was charged to make experiments upon the culture of cinnamon, supposed at that time to be indigenous in Peru, and to apply himself to several researches concerning the mines. On account of the delay occasioned by this arrangement, the expedition was not ready to sail for ten months longer; yet in spite of all the solicitations of Dombey, many necessities were neglected to be procured, and he was to furnish at his own expense, paper, instruments, &c. These and other articles cost him three times as much as they would have done at Paris; and although he lived with great economy, he found his income inadequate to his expenses at Madrid. His salary was doubled, but still fell much below that of his companions. This was a subject of uneasiness; but having arrived at Cadiz on the 17th of September 1776, all the difficulties and dangers of the voyage vanished from his sight: his thoughts hurried him across the Atlantic, and he already enjoyed, in prospect, the pleasure in seeing the plants of the new world, and of making himself useful to his country and to Spain. He embarked on board the *Peruano* of sixty guns, commanded by M. de Cordua, on the 20th of October 1777, and arrived at the port of Callao on the 7th of April 1778. The next day he went to Lima, where he was very well received by Don Emanuel de Guirrior, the viceroy of Peru.

At the sight of the ancient kingdom of the Incas, his enthusiasm redoubled; he contemplated at a distance the summits of the Cordilleras: he was however detained several months at Lima. In this city it never rains, but, in the winter season a continual fog ob-

secures the sun and nourishes vegetation; and by the end of the spring all is dry and scorched up. Dombey employed this time in collecting seeds, not from off the plants, but from the repositories of the ants in the sand, where the want of moisture prevented them from germinating.

M. de Bordenave, canon of Lima, an old friend of M. de Juissieu, pressed him to accept of board and lodging at his house; but this, although a great resource in a country where every thing is so dear, he refused, rather than separate himself from his companions, with whom, in the spring, he undertook a journey along the coasts, as far as the line near to Quito. The travellers were exposed to great danger, from which they escaped only by their courage, being attacked by a band of runaway negroes, of whom they killed one, and took three prisoners. No notice was taken of this event at Lima.

Dombey procured in this journey a great many plants, and other objects of curiosity, and some extremely rare antiquities, such as the vases found in the tombs of the ancient Peruvians, and a dress of the Incas. He superintended the making of 300 drawings, many of them of new genera; but he could not obtain a copy even of the representations of the plants he had named in honour of his patrons and friends. It was not upon this occasion only that he felt the art of design to be one of the most essential requisites to a naturalist, particularly to a traveller.

On his return to Lima, Dombey, learning that the Buen-Consejo was about to sail for Cadiz, wished to seize this opportunity of sending his collection to Europe. The number of his specimens was very considerable, having preserved twelve of each species. Of these he made two herbariums; one for France, and the other for the king of Spain. He sent also the vases and the ancient dress, which he begged M. d'Angivillers to present to the king of France; several specimens of minerals, and thirty-eight pounds of platina, designed for the cabinets of the king, the Academy, and M. Sage; a packet of seeds of the Quinoa*, &c. He

also addressed to M. de Galvez a memoir on the pretended cinnamon tree of the neighbourhood of Quito, which he proved to be not the true cinnamon of Ceylon, but another species of *Laurus* (*Laurus quixos*, Lam. Encyc.) not applicable to the same purposes, and therefore not worth attempting to cultivate; and a memoir upon a cruel disease very common in Peru, which he attributes to the abuse there made of pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) of the pubescent winter-cherry (*Physalis pubescens*) and of the love-apple (*Solanum Lycopersicum*.)

In April 1779 he received an order from the viceroy to repair to Ceuchin, to analyse the mineral waters. After having fulfilled this commission at his own expense, he advanced into the province of Tarma, on the other side of the Cordilleras, and followed the torrents which run into the Maragnon, or River of the Amazons. In this canton the country is mountainous, and the soil so variable, that every valley produces a different set of plants; but the precipices, the height of the mountains, and the sudden changes from heat to cold, render botanizing both troublesome and dangerous. He next proceeded to Huanuco, where he arrived in the beginning of May 1780. This town is the last of the Spanish settlements. Further on are vast forests, where the Cinchona grows in abundance, though not known before to be found any where but in Loxa. The Spaniards had indeed been informed of this the year before; but it was very important to verify the fact, and to determine whether the species were the same as the officinal bark. Mules, servants, Indian guides, and provisions, the same as for a voyage by sea, were requisite to botanize in these forests, so impenetrable by the trees being tied together by several kinds of climbing plants, that a passage can only be made by the hatchet. For every species a tree

are eaten like spinach; and the seeds, which Dombey assures us are nearly as good as rice, form the principal nourishment of the people. It is an annual, and would therefore succeed in France; but unfortunately the seeds sent to M. Thouin could not be sown till two years after they were gathered, and consequently would not grow.

* *Chenopodium Quinoa* L. This plant is cultivated in Peru and Chili; the leaves

must be felled, often two, because most of them are dioicous. In these thick forests the heat is so suffocating, for want of the circulation of air, as to occasion the greatest inconvenience; speedily spoiling the salted provisions, and filling the biscuits full of insects. The travellers had established the depôt of their collection at the little post of Cochero, where nothing was to be procured: nevertheless, they would have prolonged their stay, had they not received information that two hundred savages were on their way to attack and pillage them; to escape from whom it was necessary to set out in the middle of the night, to cross over the precipices, in order to reach Huanuco, from whence Dombey returned to Lima to procure assistance. The two servants he had been obliged to take with him cost him more than his salary, and he laid out in articles he had purchased more money than had been given him; and although M. Necker had ordered him 10,000 livres extra pay, this whole sum was absorbed in the expense of package only. His companions had a salary of 10,000 livres each, yet he had been obliged to lend them 8000. It may be asked whence he could obtain these resources:—let us see how this enigma is to be solved.

I have already said that Dombey carried to Lima the produce of his botanical excursions. Here he occupied himself in writing the descriptions, of which he always made duplicates at least; in arranging his specimens, and in collecting every thing curious or interesting; yet all these objects to which he devoted himself with such ardour, did not employ the whole of his time. He and his companions were at first well received; but in a country where luxury is excessive, where riches only are held in estimation, and the sciences so very little known, men who travelled on foot to collect herbs were soon held in derision and contempt. Some few only, to whom he had letters of recommendation, treated them with respect. There existed a still more unfavourable prejudice against Dombey; for the writings of the French philosophers and literati having scandalized the Spanish clergy, every Frenchman passed for a heretic. "I am very regular in conforming to all

religious customs," says he, in one of his letters; "but notwithstanding this, the Inquisition would not let me alone a single day, if I had not been sent by the king." He conducted himself, however, so prudently, that he soon conciliated both esteem and consideration. He was a physician, and visited the sick; and the prejudices against him did not prevent him being regarded as more skilful than the physicians of the country. He visited alike the rich and the poor, without ever accepting of any fee: he distributed medicines to the poor gratis, and frequently gave them money also. If he worked all the day, at night he went into company, always avoiding going to the same houses as his companions.

The Peruvian ladies are very agreeable, addicted to pleasure, but badly educated. Dombey did not seek their society in private, but paid his court to them in their public assemblies. Play is their principal occupation, and to make one of their party is the best way to be well received. As they attach but little value to money, they of course play carelessly. Dombey, whilst he gave up his time to their amusement, played at cards in a gentleman-like disinterested manner, but with attention: he was successful; and it is singular enough, that a passion so often ruinous, and almost always an enemy to study, was to him an useful resource, and even enabled him to procure objects in natural history. Thus, by conforming to the customs of the country, and distinguishing himself by a respectful gallantry towards the ladies, Dombey was soon in high repute. The frivolous found in him one of the most amiable of men; to those who knew how to appreciate merit he recommended himself by his manner and his knowledge; in fine, by his easy address, his open character, and the services he rendered, he made himself friends, who offered him money whenever he stood in need of it, and would not be repaid till after his return to France. One of these lent him at one time 40,000 livres. At the same time he was no economist: when he gained he paid his debts, he made new acquisitions, and the surplus, if any, he gave to the unfortunate. Thus it was that at one time he was seen living

in splendour, then again not able to keep one servant; but labouring with the same zeal in every situation.

If the Spanish government is justly accused of being often suspicious; if the people are a prey to indolence, and debased by superstition, there are in this nation, perhaps more than in any other, instances of men possessing elevated and generous souls, animated by every character of greatness, and who disregard every sacrifice they can make: there are among them enlightened men, who set the higher value upon knowledge, and are the more sensible of the advantages arising therefrom, in proportion as it is of more rare occurrence. In this class Dombey found admirers and friends, who thought themselves happy to offer him services, opening to him their purses, and co-operating with him in doing good; and we shall soon see that many parts of his conduct might well excite their enthusiasm.

Having procured the necessary funds, and packed up his collection, Dombey wished to return to Huanuco, where he had left his companions; a journey at this time full of danger, all the provinces about Lima being in a flame. The Indian Tapac-maros, pretending to be a descendant of the Incas, had put himself at the head of a considerable party, and drawn a number of villages into his rebellion. This war had already occasioned the destruction of several thousand lives; and the loss of the whole of Peru was dreaded. Notwithstanding this alarming state of affairs, Dombey continued his pursuits, and arriving at Huanuco the latter end of December 1780, he found the inhabitants plunged in the greatest distress and consternation, and reduced to extremities, having neither food nor money. He immediately waited on the president of the general council, and offered him the sum of 1000 piastres, and twenty loads of corn, for the support of the troops. The council and all the military officers assembled; when Dombey, renewing his offer, added that of raising two regiments at his own expense, putting himself at the head of them, and marching against the rebels. He was heard with enthusiasm; and although his offer was not accepted, the Spanish officers were

roused by the liberality of a Frenchman, and engaged to furnish the thousand piastres, and to maintain the troops at their own expense, each in his turn. Thanks were voted to Dombey by the council, by the officers, the magistrates, and the bishop; they acknowledged that to him they owed the preservation of the city, and perhaps the termination of the war; in which perished, before the capture of Tapac-Maros, a hundred thousand persons. Dombey, however, resolved not to profit by the refusal of his gift, sent it to the hospital of St. Jean-de-Dieu, to be distributed amongst the poor. On his departure to Huanuco he was accompanied of the inhabitants; but unfortunately the glory with which he was covered could not fail to excite envy.

On his return to Lima he received the most afflicting intelligence. The ship *Buen-Consejo* had been taken by the English. All the collections had been purchased at Lisbon, on account of the Spanish government, and M. Ortega had presented to his Catholic majesty the vases, the dress of the Incas, and other valuable articles intended for the king of France. Nothing had been forwarded to Paris but the duplicates of the dried plants and seeds. As the vessel had been taken by the English, and the property bought by Spain, the king of France had certainly no valid claim upon it; yet a proceeding so opposite to the elevated sentiments of Dombey could not fail to wound his feelings. He did not however show any discontent; but when those who had profited by his labours dared to add reproaches, he repelled them with indignant firmness. "The minister for the Indies," said the viceroy to him, "has desired me to inform you that the king of Spain thought it strange that the herbarium designed for him was not so considerable as that for the king of France."—"And has not the French minister also written to your Excellency to complain that my Spanish companions have not transmitted to Paris copies of their drawings and duplicates of what they have collected?"—"No, certainly; but the Spanish gentlemen do not owe any thing to France."—"And what, sir, do I owe to Spain? Does the king of Spain

pay me any salary? You may answer, that since it is demanded of me, I will never from this time send any thing more." The viceroy, who possessed as much gentleness as dignity, far from resenting this pride, endeavoured to soothe him, and persuaded him to write civilly to the minister for the Indies; and Dombey, though he resisted unjust commands, instantly yielded to these polite solicitations, and continued to send to Spain duplicates of each plant; only taking the precaution to demand receipts, that he might have it in his power, to produce to his court the proof of his proceedings.

Exhausted with fatigue, our traveller was now desirous of returning to Europe, but he wished first to visit Chili; a country the more interesting to him, because the climate, being very similar to that of France, afforded hopes that its vegetable productions might be more easily naturalized. Having filled twenty cases with his collections, and deposited them at Lima, with directions to have them embarked after the peace, he prepared to set off for Chili, a journey requiring enormous expenses, as he could not dispense with his two servants, whom he had instructed, and who required great wages. Money was necessary, as well to defray the expense of his journey and his residence in the country, as for the purchase of the curiosities he might meet with; and such was the zeal he had inspired, that 50,000 livres were offered him. He also had letters of recommendation to the most distinguished characters, and arrived at Conception in the beginning of the year 1782.

In this city a contagious disease was at that time making dreadful ravages; many had perished; every one shut himself up in his house; and the sick were abandoned. Dombey was advised to avoid the danger. What indeed had a botanist to fear, whose employment was to ramble over the country, and in a climate so mild that it was easy to avoid every suspected house? But Dombey was not only a botanist, he was likewise a physician, and his humanity prompted him to brave every danger. He accordingly settled in the city, and, excluding himself from every house where the contagion had not reach-

ed, dedicated his whole time to visiting the poor, furnishing them with food, medicines, vinegar, sugar, beds, and even nurses at 5 livres a day. He soon found that the distemper was not so fatal when treated properly, and he devoted himself with indefatigable courage. When it was observed that he cured others without being infected himself, confidence returned, the sick were taken better care of, and in the end the epidemic totally disappeared. Dombey was now regarded as a messenger from heaven: he received thanks in the name of the whole country, and was offered the place of physician to the city, with a salary of 10,000 livres. Nor were other means neglected to detain him; for Dombey having regarded with much interest a beautiful lady, and very rich, who was herself not insensible to his merit, the bishop of La Conception insisted upon her marrying him. Although more inclined to the match from the feelings of his heart than even from the prospect of riches and reputation, yet reflecting that this marriage would prevent his returning to his own country, and offering there the fruits of his labours, he resisted the temptation, and to avoid the struggle left La Conception and repaired to St. Jago. This determination he was sensible he might live to regret; but he considered it as a duty to fulfil the mission intrusted to him. Would to God he had yielded to these solicitations of gratitude! Perhaps he had then been still living; he might have sent his collections from Chili to Europe, and had been spared the pain of seeing himself deprived of of the greater part of the fruits of his labour; had escaped being a prey to the vexations which embittered his latter days, and nearly deprived him of his reason; nor would he then have witnessed those scenes of terror and barbarity which drove him from France; he had not in fine perished miserably without relation or friend to soothe his sorrow.—But let us not anticipate events. Dombey departed for St. Jago after having filled twenty cases, of which six consisted of dried plants, the rest of minerals, shells, and a great number of designs that he had caused to be executed.

During his residence in this city,

the reputation he had acquired procured him from the Spanish government a sufficiently troublesome commission. The quicksilver mines of Huanca-Velica having been ruined by the falling in of the earth, and those of Ahmaden not furnishing a sufficient supply for working the gold mines of Peru and Chili, *Le regent de l'audience* of Chili received orders to cause others to be sought for. Dombey was applied to, and set off for the Cordilleras to examine the old mine of Coquimbo, which had been abandoned above fifty years: this he caused to be cleared out, and a plan taken of it. He discovered at Xarilla a mine two leagues in extent; and brought back specimens of the ore, the assay of which left no room to doubt of the great importance of the discovery. These inquiries having led him to examine with care the course of the mines and the mode of working them, the signs by which they may be detected and the best means of rendering them productive, he addressed a memoir on the subject to the court of Spain. At the same time he pointed out a new mine of gold, and mineralogists were sent into Chili in compliance with his instructions.

In this excursion into the Cordilleras he had to travel a hundred leagues, and the labour to which he submitted nearly deprived him of his hearing. He expended 15,000 livres, the reimbursement of which he refused, alleging that he was happy to sacrifice his time and labour to be useful to Spain, as he thought by so doing he seconded the intentions of France; but that he could render no account of his expenses, except to the government which sent him. He had done the same with regard to his expenses in

the analysis of the mineral waters of Caxatumbo.

In the midst of these labours his botanical pursuits were not neglected. He found in Chili one of the finest trees in the world, observed before by Molina, and imperfectly described under the name of *Pinus araucaria*. It is fit for masts, having a trunk 150 feet long, and straight as an arrow. M. Daubenton has spoken of it in his *Memoirs of Agriculture*, and called it *Basilaire*. Lamarck has described it under the name of Dombeya, and Juissieu under that of Araucaria. Dombey having pointed out to the Spaniards the use that might be made of this tree, and proved that a vessel which had been dismasted had been repaired with it at a small expense, the minister of the Indies gave him the thanks of his Catholic majesty. It is to be regretted that the seeds brought into Europe have not germinated, as there is reason to believe that the tree would succeed in the open ground in the southern departments of France, and that it would be very useful. The nuts are good to eat. Cones, male catkins, and planks of the wood, are preserved in the museum*.

* From trials lately made both in Chili and in Portugal, it has been found that the Araucaria is not so proper for masts as was at first supposed, the wood being too soft. Two other species of Araucaria have been discovered: the one, a native of Norfolk Island, is actually cultivated in the Kew garden, under the name of Colombia, the beauty of these trees tempting the English to bestow on the genus the name of the discoverer of the New World.—AUTHOR. (It is L'Héritier who called it *Columbin*.—EDIT.)

To be concluded in our next.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

BLACK MONDAY.

HANMER'S Chronicle gives the following account of the origin of this name.

Thorne Castle is now Cullen's wood; 'tis now an old stump of a castle just above ground, scarcely two miles from the city of Dublin. This City,

by reason of a great mortality, being much wasted and desolate, the inhabitants, after their country manner upon hollydays, some for love of fresh air, and others for pastime, pleasure and gaming' sake, flocked out from thence to Cullen's wood. Upon Monday in Easter-week, the Burns and

Tools (the mountain enemies) like wolves lay in ambush for them, and finding they were unarmed, fell upon them, and slew about three hundred men, besides women and children, whom they led away in their hands: soon after, upon report of this, the city was peopled again by the Bristolians. Afterwards that dismal day used to be remembered, and solemnly observed by the Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen and citizens, with feasting, music, and pitching up of tents in that place (as though it was to dare those merciless slaves and cowards) and marching there regimentally, or in corporations in the best method they could devise, with varieties of formalities, as drums, colours flying, and other figures to each corporation. But this is left off lately, more is the pity; if it should be continued, once every two years, and the franchises every third year, it would occasion much trade to most of the tradesmen and dealers in the city of Dublin.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR.

Such was the poverty of the Western part of England during part of the 13th Century, that we find the English Judges excusing themselves to the Lord Chancellor, from holding a court of Eyre, in Cornwall. "*Si veniamus ibidem, macras genas reportabimus.*" Literally thus, "If we go thither, we shall bring back lanthorn jaws."

EXTRAORDINARY VISITATION.

Giraldus Cambrensis relates, that there is a small island, almost adjoining to Anglesey, which is inhabited by Hermits, living by manual labour, and serving God. It is remarkable, that when, by the influence of human passions, any discord arises among them, all their provisions are devoured and infected by a species of small mice, with which the island abounds; but when the discord ceases, they are no longer molested.

LORD AUDLEY.

James Lord Audley attended the Black prince at the battle of Poitiers, and was there severely wounded; the Prince rewarded him with a gift of four hundred marks, yearly rent; which he immediately divided among his four esquires, saying at the same

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time to the Prince, "Sir, it is meet that I do well for those who have deserved best of me, for these my esquires saved my life among my enemies, and God be thanked, my ancestors have left me sufficient revenues to maintain me in your service." This nobleman was afterwards killed at Blorenheath, in Shropshire, during the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster.

CIRCUITS IN MUNSTER AND CONNAUGHT.

Sir Arthur Chichester, who was Lord Deputy of Ireland, in the beginning of the reign of James the first, first established a circuit for Judges of Assize, in the provinces of Munster and Connaught.

ANECDOTE OF STRONGBOW'S SON.

It is recorded that Richard Strongbow, who first invaded Ireland, had a son who being desirous to signalize his courage, asked his father's permission to attack the Irish army, which had collected in great numbers. On being refused, he sallied out contrary to orders, but was so warmly received by the enemy, that he was forced to retreat, after having received a severe check. No sooner had he arrived at the English camp than his father, incensed at his disobedience and ill success, drew his sword, and plunged it into his body. He was buried, as was Strongbow himself afterwards, in the Church of the Holy Trinity, now called Christ's Church, Dublin.

JULIUS THE SECOND.

Julius II. had more of the spirit of a soldier than an ecclesiastic. He employed the great Michael Angelo, to superintend his buildings; and when he supposed him dilatory, often threatened to throw him off the scaffold. Once he gave him a severe beating, which he afterwards compensated by a handsome present in money. The same artist was employed to cast a statue of this Pope in bronze, for the city of Bologna, and proposed to put a hook in his hand. "No" said the military pontiff, "let me hold a sword, I am no man of letters." When the Bentivoglio family became masters of Bologna, the statue was melted down and formed into a piece of ordnance; a change which would have given Julius no displeasure.

ABOU JOSEPH.

Abou Joseph flourished in the reign of Haroun al Raschid, by whom he was appointed to an office in Bagdat, similar to that of our Lord Chancellor. He was not only a man of Learning, but of much quickness in repartee, as appears from the following anecdote.

Some persons had consulted him on some point, on which he candidly acknowledged his ignorance. They reproached him with receiving large sums of money as a salary from the royal treasury; notwithstanding which he did not discharge his duty, as was proved by his ignorance in this particular. "My friends" replied he, "I receive a salary proportioned to what I *know*, but if I were to receive in proportion to what I *do not know*, all the treasures of the Khalifat would be insufficient to pay me."

ORIENTAL POETS.

The poets of Arabia stand high in the estimation of the Eastern Literati. One of the most conspicuous of them is Abou Tainam, who was born about

the year 190 of the Hegira, and died about the year 231. His life was rather short, as had been predicted of him by one of his friends, who, with a striking accuracy of comparison, said that the activity of his mind, would consume his body, as the blade of an Indian sword wears out its sheath. The testimony given of his works by a brother poet, is one of the most unequivocal kind. When a writer not only praises the works of a contemporary author, but even exalts them above his own, we have the strongest evidence in their favour. 'This is the case with respect to Abou Tainam's works: for Bakhteri, who is highly esteemed as a poet among the Arabians, being asked his opinion of them, and whether himself or Abou Tainam were the better poet? ingenuously declared, "what is good in Abou Tainam's writings, far surpasses the best of mine; while the bad in mine is much more tolerable than the exceptionable parts of his."

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

On employing Coal Gas for lighting small manufactories, and for other purposes from a paper by Mr. B. Cook, of Caroline-street, Birmingham. PHIL. JOUR. V. XXI, P. 10291.

HITHERTO Coal Gas has only been employed permanently for lighting large manufactories. Mr. Cook has applied this Gas on a smaller scale in his manufactory of metallic toys, and has very benevolently published an account of the great advantages he has found from its use to induce others to follow his example.

Mr. Cook's apparatus consists of a small cast iron pot, containing about eight gallons, with a cast iron cover luted to it with sand, which serves as a retort for forcing over the gas from the coal placed in it, by fire applied beneath it; from this pot a pipe passes the gas, through water, to a reservoir, which holds about 400 gallons, whence it is conveyed all round the work-shops, through tubes formed of old gun barrels, which may be procur-

ed from the gun manufacturers at a cheap rate. Mr. Cook finds the flame of the gas much superior to that from a lamp urged by a blow pipe for soldering, which is much used in his trade; this flame is quicker and sharper, is constantly ready for use, and performs the work more neatly and more expeditiously than the lamp which requires to burn some time before its flame is sufficiently powerful for use, so that both the workman's time is lost by it, and much oil is wasted to no purpose.

This very useful application of the gas, of which Mr. Cook is the first inventor, makes it necessary to keep the apparatus in constant action, day and night, while his men are at work, and twenty-five pounds of coal put into the pot, are found to be sufficient to afford all the gas wanted every twenty-four hours, with a considerable surplus, which is burned to waste when not wanted; the whole quantity of gas produced by this quantity

of coal is computed to be 600 gallons, twenty-five pounds more coal will be fully adequate for the fire beneath the pot, during the same period; the coke produced in the process may be used for the same purpose.

This quantity of coals cost Mr. Cook only four pence, and for this small charge he has light supplied equal to that of eighteen or twenty candles, of six to the pound, besides the saving of the oil and cotton for his soldering lamps, which used to cost him full 30*l.* a year: from this saving only five shillings a week are to be deducted for the charge of a man to attend the gas apparatus, part of his time.

Mr. Cook only values the coke produced at 2*l.* 10*s.* a year, which from his own account, in another part of his paper, is evidently too little; for he states there, that coke in stoves or furnaces lasts so much longer than coals (on account of the flame of the bitumen in the latter, causing the whole to consume with great rapidity) that "two fires of coke will last longer than three of coal." He also makes no allowance for the value of the tar, setting that off for casual losses; but it is to be hoped that this tar will be more valued and have a better sale, when its good properties for paying ships are better known, of which a notable instance has been mentioned, in the account of the ship *Economy*, constructed on Mr. J. W. Boswell's patent plan, which vessel was paid with it on her last voyage, but even if not sold, it would be of some value in burning in the retort to produce gas.

Mr Cook's statement of the account of the annual cost of the gas, contrasted with that of candles, &c. for the same purpose, is as follows:

Yearly expense in coals and	Dr.
man,	£18 10 0
Interest of forty-two pounds	
(cost of apparatus)	2 0 0
Profits per year,	30 0 0
	<hr/>
	£50 10 0
Twenty weeks candles, at eight-	Cr.
teen shillings per week,	£18 0 0
Oil and cotton for lamps,	30 0 0
Coke worth, estimated,	2 10 0
	<hr/>
	£50 10 0

An apparatus which saves 30*l.* per annum, costs from Mr Cook's statement, only 42*l.* He thinks the plan might be used to great advantage on a still smaller scale, for those who use but six candles and one soldering lamp, and for this purpose a first expense of ten or twelve pounds would be sufficient, which would be saved in the first year. Mr. Cook acknowledges the profit to be under-rated, as the gas would not be wanted for light in summer; the coke seems rated so much beneath its value, that probably the error of the credit on this account would add much to that mentioned, and both together cause the profit to be much higher than what is stated. Mr. Cook states that considerable national benefit would arise from the general use of gas lights, by reducing the importation of tallow, and of spirits of turpentine; as the spirit which might be drawn from the tar (of which spirit a good deal is also produced in procuring the gas) would answer all purposes probably as well as that imported from Russia, which now costs twenty shillings a gallon, though formerly the same quantity was sold for three and sixpence.

Mr. Cook has promised to communicate to the public, plans and drawings of a small gas apparatus sufficient to enable any man to put one up for himself; which will be of the more value as we have as yet no exact description in print of the whole process of managing the gas from actual practice in this country; many minute parts of the apparatus, which a person familiar with them would not think of consequence enough to mention, would require many trials from any one else, before they could be made to the best advantage.

A method of constructing a gas apparatus, called a *Thermopile* was published in Sonini's Journal; and afterwards a translation of the account was inserted in the Repository of Arts, No. 49, with a plate. It does not appear, however, from this that any stoves were actually made on this plan, or that its utility was much proved by experiment. It contains the only description we are acquainted with, of a method of passing the gas through water.

Mr. Cook has remarked, that if the use of coal gas became universal, so much coke would be made in producing it, that it would probably put a stop to the manufacture of coke at the coal works. This would also be a national advantage, as the prodigious quantity of heat and light, at present, wasted in the coal works, would then be all converted to profitable use. He has also observed, that another consequence of this measure would be, the reduction of the price of candles, oil, tallow, and of course, of soap.

Cheap and easy method of Charring Bog-turf into Coke, from the Transactions of the Dublin Society.

Observing that charred turf is not yet become a manufacture, or brought to market for the use of smiths or various manufacturers, it is proposed to render this easy and profitable to every poor cottier.

Let a pit be dug in the floor of the cabin, near the hearth, two feet deep, and as long and as broad, as a flag can be conveniently got; if of the length of the hearth, and three feet wide, the better.

Let a hole be cut, either round or square, in the middle of the flag, large enough for the arm to go in, and to reach to each extremity of the pit, and let a flag-cover be made to fit the hole; there may be an iron ring in the cover to lift it off and on.

Whenever the poor cottier boils his potatoes, there are usually left in the grate, or on the hearth, a number of pieces of turf, thoroughly burnt, fit for coke or char, which are suffered to waste and burn out into ashes.

Let these thorough burnt lumps of turf, in their glowing state, be taken off with the tongs, and conveyed into the pit, covering the hole of the flag immediately, to exclude the air; these lumps of turf will be charred or coked, fit for use. When the pit is full, let it be emptied out into a dry corner of the cabin, till there is a quantity for market, it will be readily bought up by the smiths, for the forge, or changed for horse shoes or iron work, wanted for cars. The country smiths seldom burn the turf properly for coke, or cover it sufficiently from the air, when burnt, to make good char or coke.

A quantity made by this direction was sent to the manufacturers of Japan, at Newry, and they certified that it was nearly equal to charcoal, but burnt something quicker. The greasy or soapy black turf is the best for coke.

If the landlords would make a few of these pits here and there, on the mountainous or boggy parts of their estates, it would soon become common.

Description of a temporary Life-boat, recommended to be used on the coast of Ireland.

Reading the account of the shipwreck at Ballycastle, I could not but lament the want of that useful machine, a life-boat, which has proved so serviceable in similar cases, when all prospect of assistance without it, seemed utterly impossible. As it is however improbable that a sufficient number of boats on the most approved plan could be stationed in sufficient numbers along our widely extended coasts, to be ready in every case of emergency; I offer the following plan for converting any boat into a good substitute. It is well known that air is a thousand times lighter than water, and that a cubic foot of fresh water weighs sixty-five pounds; could therefore a sufficient number of air-tight compartments be made in any boat, it is clear she must float when even filled with water and heavy articles. The Esquimaux and Greenlanders construct boats, which, from being covered over with a skin, which laces tight about the body of the person who navigates them, thereby excluding water from the cavity, pass without danger through the most turbulent seas; and Dr. Franklin, among many other valuable hints for enlarging the comforts of mankind, suggests this idea of having air-tight compartments in vessels to augment their floatability, and also, that by bunging up the water casks as they were emptied, a collection of air might be formed, capable of floating several tons*. All that is necessary to convert any common boat into a life-boat is to dispose a number of small casks, closely bunged, under the thwarts, and in other parts of the boat, and securing them from mov-

* See Franklin's Works, vol. ii. 170.

ing, for upon their being firmly fixed, depends the safety of the crew. A ten gallon keg, holding eighty pounds of water may serve as a standard to reckon from, and as a small boat, or Norway yawl, can hold ten such small casks, without inconvenience, and as the boat will float, when without heavy articles, even when full of water, we may safely calculate on a floatability of eight-hundred-pounds, and so in proportion on all other occasions. Some ballast may be necessary in order to give steadiness, but this need be in small quantity, if disposed in the very bottom, or it might even be pieces of timber, which would not diminish the buoyance, yet preserve the boat upright among the waves, especially as we do not suppose the boat to carry sail. In a boat thus prepared, little danger is to be apprehended, and when confidence enables men to think with composure, they will be able to make good a landing at the most favourable moment, and skilful seamen will know that even during tremendous gales, by attention to the waves, a safe landing may be effected in many places, where certain destruction would most inevitably follow a precipitate attempt.

People accustomed to triumph over difficulties acquire, by habit, a contempt for danger, but certainly it would be worth consideration to have all fishing boats, pleasure boats, and one boat at least belonging to every ship, adapted at all times for standing heavy seas without being liable either to sink or upset, a matter easily accomplished if the ballast was a bar of iron placed on the keel and airtight compartments might be made without much expense or inconvenience, underneath the seats, and at the stem and stern, of sufficient capacity, both to float the ballast with any common quantity of loading, and to ensure safety to the crew.

Since writing the above, I am happy to find the latter part of this plan has been carried into effect by Mr. Christopher Towill, and after the most satisfactory trials, a figure, with a complete description, has been given to the public, in Nicholson's Journal, of January 1, 1809. "The following

is a description of the boat as built by Mr. Christopher Towill, of Teignmouth. Her length is thirty feet, her breadth ten, her depth three feet six inches. The space between her timbers is fitted up with Pinewood; this is done with a view to prevent the water lodging there. The pine wood is well caulked and paid. She is buoyed up by eight metal cases, four on each side; these are water-tight, and independent of each other. They will serve to buoy up six tons, but I find that all the buoyant parts of the boat, taken collectively, will buoy up ten tons. The cases are securely decked over and boarded on the sides with pine. There is a scuttle to each case to put goods in; the edges are lined with baize, and over each scuttle in the case, is one of wood, of a larger size, the margin of which is lined in the same manner, to exclude the water. Between the cases are Norwegian balks, bolted to the bottom, and fastened to each other by iron clamps, and decked over. The depth of the keel is about nine inches below the garboard-streak, the dead rising is four inches. Her keel is narrow at the under part, and wide above, for the purpose of giving the timber a good bed, which will support the bolts in case a necessity should arise to encounter sand-banks. In sailing over a bar, or in places where the water is shallow, the rudder will with ease draw up even with the keel, and when in deep water it will let down, instantly, and with equal facility, a foot below it; in consequence of which advantage, the boat is found to steer remarkably well. The fore-castle of the boat forms a cabin 10 feet wide, 6 feet long, and 4 feet deep, into which women, children, and disabled persons may be put. It is furnished besides, with two grapnels, very proper to be thrown on board a wreck, to ride by. The grapnel ropes will assist the sufferers to remove and escape from the wreck to the boat. She is likewise equipped with masts and sails, and is as manageable with them, as any boat of her dimensions can possibly be. In a tempest however, she must be dismantled and rowed by fourteen men, with oars, 16 feet

long, double banked. The men are all fastened to the thwarts by ropes, and cannot be washed from their seats. As a pleasure-boat she answers extremely well. And with respect to safety I can say, that I have sailed in her from Brighton, round the Cor-

nish coast to Conway, in North Wales, without any accident, though we experienced some dreadful weather on our Voyage.".....*Nicholson's Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts*, vol. xxii. p. 25, with the plan.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ANALYSIS OF 1808.

AN ODE, ADDRESSED TO THE PRINTERS OF
THE BELFAST MAGAZINE.

Lectorem delectando pariterque monendo.

GOOD Messieurs Printers, SMITH and
LYONS,

Nurses and accoucheurs of science,
Plying aloft there, at your Magazine,
From case to case so nimbly roving,
Your ALPHAS and OMEGAS moving,
O'er Koster's* sable imps, supreme you
reign :

Making them skip, like conscripts, to their
places,
Where rank and file, arrang'd in iron
spaces,

They form divisions, now, as grenadiers,
Again, as Voltigeurs, diffusely cracking,
Now overthrown, the rogues are sent a
packing,

And leap'd in holes together, lie in
tiers.

What will you cause these imps of yours
to say ?

When they *try back*, in order to display
A brief epitome of last year's wonders,
Will they, in terms of truth and candour
state,

A faithful picture of a scene, replete
With statesmen's errors—military blun-
ders ?

One royal house dethron'd—another fled ;
Commerce convuls'd—war's horrors wide-
ly spread—

Conventions—edicts—orders, and embar-
gues,

Arms—horses—powder—men, and cash
in cargoes

To Spain transported, there to reinstate
King FERDINANDO, on his father's seat,
Restore the inquisition, and replace
In monkish splendor, all the monkish race.

Should these same imps of Bonapart'
say ought ;

Take the advice of one by prudence taught,

* Laurentius Koster, a citizen of Haarlem in-
ventor of moveable types.

Of BONI always as you go along,
Say " every action of his life was wrong,"
Call him " a monster—tyrant—hell-hound
—thief,

Robber—and murderer—hypocrite; in brief,
Pour torrents of abuse upon his head,
Else—what you say of him, will ne'er be
read.

Should LUSITANIA chance to be the theme,
VIMERIA's battle; or—they must not name
The officer commanding, but assert,
" That every British soldier did exert
His native prowess, and that vict'ry flew,
From rank to rank, commanding to pursue
The routed Gauls, till General SUPREMACY,
With raven's scream their martial ardour
staid,

Croaking in accent like the voice of fate,
The dismal order—BRITISH TROOPS retreat !

This *fav'rite General*, what he is, or who,
Whether Sir *Arthur—Harry—or Sir Hex !*
INQUIRY DOETH NOT TELL ! and therefore,
num,

Mynheer Van Koster must, on this be dumb.

Should Spanish patriotism next come on,
God knows, to praise it, all are very prone,

And much, *all like* a fashionable read :
Upon this subject, to remove all doubts,
And more sublimely sympathize our
thoughts,

From old ALCAUS—take the following
ode :

" What constitutes a state ?
Not high-rai'd battlement or labour'd
mead,

Thick wall or moated gate,
Not cities proud with spires and turrets
crown'd,

Not bays and broad-arm'd ports,
Where, laughing at the storms, rich navies
ride,

Not starr'd and spangled courts,
Where low-brow'd baseness wafts per-
fumes to pride :

NO—MEN, high-minded MEN,
With pow'rs as far above dull brutes en-
dued,

In forest, brake, or den,
As beasts excel cold rocks, and brambles
rude :

Men, who their duties know ;
But know their *rights*, and knowing, dare
maintain ;

Prevent the long aim'd blow,
And crush the tyrant while they rend the
chain :

These constitute a state,
And sovereign *LAW*, that *states* collected will,
O'er thrones and globes elate
Sits Empress, crowning good, repressing
ill ;

Smit by her sacred frown,
The fiend *discretion*, like a vapour sinks,
And e'en th' all dazzling *crown*,
Hides his faint rays and at her bidding
shrinks, &c."

Perhaps this ode may teach us to explain,
Why, matters went not otherwise in
Spain.

Now show some learning, 'twill obtain
you fame,

And tell us all about the ancient name ;
Ebra, a passage—*Shaphan* a rabbit*—mind,
In both these words, *Chaldaic* roots we find,
IBERIA and *HISPANIA* thence are brought,
Which quickly give the derivation sought,

Of *VIRIATUS* sing, and tell us how
The rugged Shepherd from his mountain's
brow,

When *Roman Eagles* did his plains assail,
" Rush'd like a torrent down upon the
vale,

Sweeping" their forces from the bloody
field;

In various battles made their leaders yield ;
And, for a season the confines of Spain,
From Rome's all-conqu'ring legions did
maintain.

When foul corruption o'er the Senate
reign'd

And civil strife with Roman blood had
stain'd

The Campus Martius ; great *SEXTORIUS*
view,

T' *IBERIA*'s shores, retiring with a few
Of Rome's *LAST CITIZENS*, and there erect
A new republic, with whose force he
check'd†,

And in successive conflicts overcome,
All the aristocratic power of Rome.

His government on virtue founded rose
In strength superior to surrounding foes ;
From his peninsula, he always drove
Each proud invader who against him strove ;

* Spain has always been famous for Rabbits, as a proof that they still abound there, see *Benaparte's* address to the *Corregidor of Madrid*,

† A bone for the Belfast Critick.

Till vile *Perpetua* sunk in treach'ry's
flood,
With factious dagger drank his sacred
blood.

By luxury debas'd, the Roman name,
And Roman province soon a prey became
To *VISCIGOTH* led on by *LEOVIGILD*,
Who many years, of Spain the empire
held.

After long lapse, and many foreign
shocks,
See fam'd *PALAGIO*, on *ASTURIA*'s rocks,
Defeat the crescent, reinstate the cross,
And drive the Moors from Spain with little
loss.

Now to your Imps, I vow and I declare,
All this historic lingo makes me stare :

How does it touch the present state of
Spain ?

Good Mr. Querist, "'tis an alter'd day,
SEXTORIUS & co. (your Imps will say)
Good Lord !—were Heroes and com-
manded MEN !

Again, unto your Imps, I say, how ?
how ?

Your Imps will say " such men are not
there now ;

For if they were, and ALL the SPANISH
FOLK,

Determin'd to resist a tyrant's yoke ;
The EMPEROR NAP, with his immense ar-
ray,

In three short weeks, " they'd drive into the
Sea."

Edenecullo, Jan. 3, 1809. CALDERONE.

To be continued.

HOPE AND LOVE ; AN ALLEGORY.

WHEN guilt had first provok'd the wrath
of heaven,

And wretch'd man from paradise was
driven ;

Onward he mov'd with tottering steps and
slow,

While every gesture spoke remorse and
wo ;

Dejected melancholy mark'd his air,
His darken'd features clouded by despair ;
Without one cheering thought to soothe his
breast,

He wander'd forth to seek a place of rest.
All nature seem'd his deep distress to
share,

Gloomy the skies, and heavy felt the air ;
The flocks no more their wonted sports
pursu'd,

Nor birds, that joyless morn, their songs
renew'd,

An awe-struck silence every creature
kept,

Save, that alternately, Ere sigh'd and wept.

Wearied at length in body and in mind,
 On a green bank their languid limbs reclin'd ;
 When Adam thus th' oppressive silence broke,
 Amid deep sighs and groans the murmur spoke.
 " O, thou great power! who mad'st us as we are,
 And taughtst us to expect thy guardian care,
 In pity take the life thy love bestow'd ;
 Without thy favour, grievous is the load.
 Thy threat'ped death we earnestly implore,
 O! let us sink to sleep and wake no more."
 As thus he breath'd his thoughts in impious pray'r,
 The heavens grew lighter, purer felt the air,
 A glorious vision bless'd his wond'ring sight,
 Array'd in silv'ry robes of ambient light,
 A female form, surpassing all that's fair,
 Her charms divine, her heavenly birth declare ;
 Our sire beheld with rapture, and surprize,
 The piercing brightness of her radiant eyes ;
 Her graceful brows adorn'd with op'ning flow'rs,
 Breathing the fragrance of celestial bow'ers ;
 Her wings of azure, ting'd with gold behind,
 Like eve's bright clouds, that sail along the wind,
 While o'er her form a soft'ning veil was thrown,
 Through which each beauty more attractive shone,
 Her snowy hand led forth a cherub child,
 In whose bright face perpetual pleasure smil'd ;
 Soft as they tread, fresh flow'rets kiss their feet,
 The birds with rapturous notes their presence greet.
 Arrived—the fair one: Adam thus address'd,
 Her tones harmonious thrill'd his glad'ning breast:
 " Cease, mortals, thus to blame thy Maker's plan,
 All heaven admires his wou'drous love to man,
 Behold he sends us from the realms above,
 My name is Hope, this beauteous child is Love ;
 We come to ease thy cares, to soothe thy strife ;
 And soften all the rugged paths of life ;
 To all thy race our blessings shall extend,
 But chief the virtuous ever most befriended,

With this celestial child to thee is given,
 A foretaste of those joys prepar'd in heaven,
 While I that heaven shall place before their eyes,
 Attend through life, and guide them to the skies."
 Here ceas'd her balmy words—but in his breast,
 The glowing visions strongly were impress'd.
 Mean time, fair Eve had caught the lovely boy,
 And prest him in her arms with matron joy ;
 Had eas'd her weary head upon his breast,
 And, like an infant, smil'd herself to rest.
 Enraptur'd Adam, view'd her o'er and o'er,
 And saw new beauties, still unmark'd before,
 Then sunk beside her, and in sweet repose,
 Forgot awhile, his blessing and his woes.
 Morn's ruddy streaks soon chas'd the balmy night,
 The glorious sun shed floods of golden light ;
 Young nature, vigorous from her short repose,
 The grateful incense, heaven-ward, smiling throws ;
 All creatures wake to life, and peace, and joy,
 And various powers in pleasing cares employ :
 The glittering insects hum their matin song,
 Unnumber'd birds their joyful hymns prolong,
 The pearly dew falls off, in fragrant show'ers,
 From spangled beds of brilliant op'ning flowers ;
 Last, man awakes, fresh as the new-born day,
 While Love and Hope, within his bosom play :
 From this blest morn, no more, he turns his eyes,
 With lingering gaze, toward Eden's happy skies,
 No more regrets those lovely blissful seats
 But cheer'd by hope's gay scenes, his fortune meets,
 Feels now his Paradise within his mind,
 Gives heaven the praise, and meets its will resign'd.

Belfast, Dec. 28, 1808.

DELIA.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine*TRANSLATION OF SOME OF THE CHORUSES
OF ARISTOPHANES.

FROM THE COMEDY OF THE CLOUDS.

"The poet's eye in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heav'n to earth, from earth
to heav'n,
And, as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unseen—the poet's pen,
Turns them to shape, and gives to airy nothing,
A local habitation, and a name."

THE Comedy of "the Clouds," was first acted under the Archon Isarchus, in the ninth year of the Peloponnesian war (the first of the 89th Olympiad) at the Dionysial feasts. Its object was to hold up Socrates, who stood accused of introducing strange Gods, to public ridicule. The translator, struck with the harmony of the original, attempted to express in English, what he had admired in the Greek. No English version of these Choruses (so far as comes within his knowledge) has yet appeared. In the first, Socrates addresses Strepsiades (in debt) informing him of his erroneous opinions with respect to the Deities. He enforces the devotion due to Ether and the Clouds, and invokes them to become visible. On the close of this address, the Deities are personified, and one of the Clouds exhorts the sister Divinities, to attend to the prayer of Socrates. The third is a response, by another of the Clouds, in reply. The fourth introduces the Chorus, ascertaining the relative devotion due to each of the supreme powers. And the fifth, which closes the piece, supplicates their protection.

I.

CALM as that arch o'er nature spread,
When midnight's starry radiance glows,
When sleep the winds on Ocean's bed,
And earth and heaven at once repose,
Should be the time worn man of age,
When choral hymns to heaven we raise,
When sacred rites the soul engage,
And solemn swells the voice of praise.
Thou Power supreme! earth circling air,
Through fields of light in motion driven,
Propitious hear thy suppliant's prayer,
And bear it to the gates of heaven.
Hail splendid Ether! ever bright,
With thee the air-borne clouds reside,
Or tread thy courts in radiant light,
Or sweep the earth in thundering pride.
Ye sacred daughters of the air,
Children of light and maids of power,
Accepted be the votive prayer,
And bless'd the solemn festal hour.

BELFAST MAG. NO. VI.

Whether Olympus' heights you sweep,
Or with the sea-nymphs, hand in hand,
Ye tread the mazes of the deep,
And mingle in the choral band:
Whether in soft and graceful ease,
A while you cease from pleasing toil,
Or sweep in pride the billowy seas,
Or bear aloft the waves of Nile:
Or by Mæotis' banks reclin'd,
On roseate beds you love to lie;
Your tresses floating unconfin'd,
Light-varying in the rain-bow die.
Then, when our sacrifice delights,
When swells the hymn through fields of air,
When pleasing rise our genial rites,
Deign nymphs adivine, these rites to share.

II.

SISTERS—Daughters of the air,
As late on Ether's wing ye past;
Say, heard you not the voice of prayer,
Slow moving on the western blast?
Come, let us rise from Ocean's bed,
These splendid robes of light unfold,
Shall sweep the cloud-capt mountain's head,
And shed a radiance on the world.
Come, mark the prospect stretching wide,
The fruits of earth at distance scan,
Or from Olympus' summit glide;
And trace the sacred seat of man.
No straglers we to human kind;
Conspicuous through nature shines our power,
'Tis ours to give the hoary rind,
Or bathe in dew the vernal flower.
Resplendent flames the Delian light,
Our parent source; the God of day;
And backwards rush the shades of night,
As on he moves the pathless way.
Come, mark the prospect stretching wide,
The fruits of earth at distance scan,
Or from Olympus' summit glide,
And trace the sacred seat of man.

III.

VIRGINS! bearers of the rain,
Sea-born Sisters of the main,
On airy wing through Ether mov'd,
Approach the shrine by Pallas lov'd,
Where form'd of erst the martial band,
That press'd the plains of Cecrop's land,
The choral hymn of praise invites,
The mystic fane—th' unspoken rites.
There rites divine, and vows are paid,
To Athens' guard, the blue-eyed maid;
Still in the temple's massy dome,
Can heaven's tenant find a home;
There festal rites their cares employ,
The choral hymn, their boast, their joy,
There crown'd with flowers these rites
appear;
Each season of the circling year,
When spring her genial influence yields,
And decks in dew-clad robes the fields:

The festal dance each soul delights,
And pleasing swell the Bromian rites,
Then glows the breast with living fire,
Then lightly sweeps the choral lyre,
The flute deep-breathing joins the sound,
And air-borne music floats around.

IV.

WHEN issuing from our hallow'd fanes,
Ascending swells the voice of song,
When choral hymns and mystic strains,
Religion's sacred rights prolong :

Then first we hail the name of Jove,
Whose power nor man, nor God with-
stands,
Self-poi'd he shakes the realms above,
Or hangs the earth on airy bands.

Then Neptune, ruler of the main,
Whose circling arms round nature hurl'd
Binds in a massy rock-wave chain,
The solid fabric of the world.

To Ether next ascends the prayer,
His are the joys from health that flow,
To Ether, sovereign prince of air,
Who bids the breast with rapture glow :

And sacred hymn, and mystic song,
Proclaim the solemn festal hour,
When borne on passing winds along,
Our rites appease the Loxian power.

Beneath his ear with lightning's speed,
High-prancing to the signal-sound,

Light bounding flies the generous steed,
And thunders on Olympic ground.
Through heaven's high portals, ever bright,
Untir'd he moves in mystic plan,
And pours the fluid beam of light,
Rever'd by gods, ador'd by man.

V.

WHERE Cynthia's rose-clad summits
swell,

There sacred Phœbus loves to dwell,
There may our votive incense find,
The friend of Gods, and human kind.
And thou chaste Dian, power divine,
Dread goddess of the Ephesian shrine,
To thee, light swells from sacred shades,
The festal hymns of Lydian maids,
When air-borne forms adorn the groves,
Of Athens, land of many loves.
Minerva first of powers above,
Thou shaker of the shield of Jove,
We hail in choral circling band,
The goddess of our natal land ;
And Bacchus next the strain employs,
The God of mimic sportive joys,
Whose shiny veil, and magic power,
Can hide the pang of sorrow's hour,
With light-form'd hopes the mind beguile,
And plant on miseries cheek a smile.
Now solemn swells the voice of praise,
To where Parnassian torches blaze,
Ascending to th' aerial band,
The sacred guards of Athens' land.

Dublin.

WASSINGHAM.

LITERATURE, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

OBSERVATIONS ON ROMANCE, FROM
THE FRENCH OF LA HARPE

GOOD romances are the history
of the human heart; but they
did not assume this character on their
first appearance among us. The most
ancient, such as "The Romance of
the Rose," may not have been use-
less for the improvement of our lan-
guage at a time when it was not
thought worthy of being employed in
the composition of serious writings.
I freely confess, I have never been
able to read either that or "Astrea,"
notwithstanding the latter is much more
modern, and was very much admired
at the beginning of the last century.
Some traits of simplicity, some pas-
toral images which may have been
pleasing at a time when we were unpro-
vided with better models, cannot make
amends for verbosity, and bon-

bast, unless among professed philolo-
gists, men of reading and etymolo-
gists, who take delight in penetrating
into the dark antiquities of our lan-
guage, to explore its ancient jargon,
and who think their patience suffi-
ciently rewarded when they have been
able to discover some roots of mo-
dern words, or to quote some happy
phrase. Every body takes the nou-
rishment he likes best: we even see
this antiquated idiom introduced into
modern productions, and writers
of the eighteenth century imitating
the language which was spoken in the
twelfth. In the romances of the pre-
sent day, the style of "The Fair
Maguelon" and of "Pierre de Pro-
vence" is used. Some people discover
wonderful invention in this species of
imitation; as for me, who am unac-
quainted with such refinement, I can

only see an easy method of freeing ones-self from the shackles of style and genius.

Nor have I been able to read "Clelia" or "Cepus" to the end; each of which has been the subject of the well directed satire of Boileau; nor the "Ariana" of Desmarets still more worthless, yet not less esteemed. 'Tis not for want of inclination, but I cannot read what wearies me.

In these cases we must always recollect the expression of Voltaire; *How lucky it is to come at a proper time!* Madame Scudery, with her long romances, acquired a great celebrity, at least till the time in which Despreaux reduced them to their true value. The people of that day were seized with a frenzy for portraits, and this lady did not fail to draw those of all the celebrated characters of her own day, under ancient names. Every one was flattered at the idea of having a place in this gallery of pictures. Mademoiselle de Rambouillet appeared there under the name of Artenice; this she always preserved even in the funeral oration which was composed to her memory: and the modesty of the solitary students of the Port Royal was not proof against the petty vanity of seeing themselves drawn in flattering colours in these lying compositions, which at the same time their taste rejected, and the rigour of Jansenism disapproved. They admitted those books which they considered poisonous, though in reality their only poison was their tediousness; we may, at least, be certain that self-love had sufficient power to blend a little of its honey with what they styled the venom of these writings.

The master-piece of this kind of romance (if we ought to apply such a term to any of them) is undoubtedly "Cleopatra," notwithstanding its enormous length, its endless conversations, and its descriptions, over which we must leap with all our might, the complication of twenty different intrigues which have no apparent connection, and escape the best memory, the monstrous wounds which excite no terror, and to which Madam de Sevigne had no dislike, the laughable resurrections and the princesses who never draw

forth our tears. With all these faults, which are repeated in "Cassandra" and "Pharamond," Calprenede had genius; his heroes have an elevated mien; his characters are boldly designed; that of Artabanus has passed into a proverb. It is true that this proverb itself exposes the absurdity of the exaggeration; but, in a word, the works of this author breathe a spirit of heroism although often of an extravagant kind, and may furnish useful lessons to those who attempt tragedy, provided they guard against the excess into which Crebillon has fallen, who, inflated with the study of books of this kind, has transferred the taste and style of romance into his theatrical pieces.

It has long been the fashion to laugh at heroines of romance, with whom the most respectful declaration is an offence of such magnitude that it cannot be expiated but by years of penance. But nothing of this kind can be compared with "Polexander," of M. de Gomberville, in five huge volumes of a thousand or twelve hundred pages each, which abound with a folly so extraordinary that it gives courage to attempt a cursory perusal of them. The Princess, who is the heroine of this formidable work, is one Alcadiana, the most extraordinary creature that human imagination ever conceived. She is beloved by all the monarchs in the world, and ambassadors come from all corners of the universe to demand her in marriage. Those who could not aspire so high are contented to declare themselves her knights at five or six hundred leagues distance, break lances to her honour, and cease to look upon any other woman in the world, after having once seen the portrait of Alcadiana. It would at first appear that such distant homage could not be attended with bad consequences, and that the lady must be very captious who would take offence at it. Yet the princess is highly displeased; she takes it extremely ill that the great Khan of Tartary, and the King of Cashmire should have the boldness to fall in love with her though at some distance. In short, to be enamoured of Alcadiana, even at the distance of a thousand leagues, is a crime deserving of death, except in

Polexander, the hero of the romance, to whom alone she had granted permission to love her, because after all it is necessary that some one should obtain this favour. Polexander therefore travels round the world defying all he meets; and when he has killed one, wounded another, dethroned this king, imprisoned that one, and obliged all to give their word that they would never dare to say that they were in love with Alcadiana, he returns to his mistress who deigns to honour him with a look, but cannot yet endure the idea of marrying one whom she has caused to commit so much slaughter. He finds as much difficulty in the thought as herself, and even after he is married to her, can scarcely persuade himself that a mortal man can be the husband of Alcadiana, and that he is the happy mortal; his head grows giddy, when he is about to ascend the stair-case which leads to his wife's apartment; two squires are obliged to support him on his way up, and the story terminates, before we are fully assured that his life is out of danger.

It must be acknowledged that we have been imitators in every thing, in our faults as well as in our beauties. We have borrowed, from the hot and unruly imaginations of the people of the south and west, among whom learning flourished before it arrived at our latitude, the ridiculous extravagance of character which at first reigned in our great romances. We imitated the Spaniards, who in turn had copied from the Arabians. It is in the writings of these latter that we discover the originals of princes who are in love with the likeness of a princess at the other end of the world, and who sometimes never existed, as we find it in the adventures of a prince spoken of in the Arabian Nights, who traverses the whole world in search of the object of a passion to which the sight of a portrait had given birth, and who, at the end of, I know not how many years, is informed by a sage, that the princess of whom he is enamoured has been one of the mistresses of Solomon. The enthusiastic gallantry of the Castilians and Arabians, their exalted passions, their invincible Paladins, who dispose of the destiny of kings and empires, all such ideas beyond nature

and probability governed our literature at the time when the Spanish power was paramount in Europe, and led us to adopt its dresses, its festivals, and its tournaments: thus it is that the history of taste is always united with that of manners. We may say more; it was with these extravagant inventions, as it is with all errors, which are originally founded on some degree of truth. The passion of love, among the Asiatic and southern nations, had in fact, a degree of enthusiasm which the western nations imitated, without being able to equal, and which the ambitious imagination of our writers of romance aimed at surpassing, even though the attempt led them to the height of absurdity. With respect to the hero, the actions of Du Guesclin in Spain, and of Warwick in England, both of whom had overturned and re-established thrones, at a time when kings not possessing great bodies of mercenary troops, and great trains of artillery, depended more on the abilities of those about them, and on the vicissitude of fortune; examples such as these seemed to afford some foundation for the supposition of adventurers, whom our romances represent as making and unmaking kings, but attended with circumstances totally void of all shadow of probability.

The spirit of the court of Louis XIV. during the youth of that prince, who was somewhat of a romantic turn, was at first favourable to these extravagant fictions, and the parts which had been played by women in our civil wars, the all powerful influence they had enjoyed, accustomed our writers, to attribute an extraordinary degree of weight to a sex which always governs where it is not a slave. They certainly overleaped the bounds, 'tis always so at the commencement: real taste leads us back to nature. The force of ridicule exploded all these heroic extravagancies with which we had been inundated by Spain; we had long paid the tribute of imitation to the writers of this country: they were our masters, as the Italians had been, when we composed our histories on their novels, and that our poetry, with a few exceptions, breathed the affectation of Petrarch, without possessing his harmony or elegance. At length Boileau and Racine

taught us to imitate nature and the ancients, and to feel that love is better painted in twenty verses of the fourth book of the *Æneid*, than in all the romances of modern Europe.

The first which relates a series of rational adventures recorded with interest and elegance, was that of "Zaida," the composition of a female. It is just that we should owe this first model to the natural and quick feelings which distinguish women of well cultivated minds. Nothing can be more affecting or original than the situation of Gonzalvo and Zaida, in love with each other in a desert, ignorant of each other's language, and both afraid that they had seen each other too late. The incidents arising from such a situation are a true and happy description of the emotions of passion. Though the rest of the work is not altogether equally interesting as the beginning, and though the character of Alphonzo, jealous of a dead man, and ready to quarrel with his mistress on his account, be somewhat too extravagant, yet the spirit of the romance is retained to the end, and it will always be read with pleasure. "The princess of Cleves" is another of Madame de la Fayette's compositions, still more amiable and affecting. Never has the combat between love and duty been described with greater delicacy; it has been granted only to another woman, at the end of another century to describe, with equal success the struggles of love, against obstacles, and against virtue. "The Count de Comminges," by Madame de Tencin, may be looked upon as the sequel of the Princess of Cleves.

To pass from Madame de la Fayette to Scarron, and from Zaida to the Comic Romance, is to go from good company to the tavern. But men of taste are not without indulgence for mirth; it is so entertaining; this book possesses much of it and of the best kind. The character of Rancune is lively, true and well drawn; and many chapters, among others that of the boots, are treated with much pleasantry. The style is natural and animated; it is even purer than that of any other writing of the same author. We may pass over all the novels which he has taken from the Spaniards, or in which he has imitated their taste. I would infinitely prefer

Ragotin to those insipid love scenes and frigid intrigues. His Virgil travestied is insupportable at the end of two pages. Jodelet and D. Japhet are disgusting, totally unworthy of the French stage. The comic romance is infinitely superior; to speak correctly it is all that remains of Scarron; and what has been now mentioned contains the best of the romances of the last age; for Gil Bias belongs to ours; and Mademoiselle de la Force, author of "the Secret History of Burgundy," and Mademoiselle d'Aulnoy, author of "Hyppolitus, Earl of Douglas," a romance of some talent, are but imitators of Madame de la Fayette, far inferior to their model in the art of invention and writing.

HISTORICAL INACCURACY OF SALLUST.

IT appears to me a somewhat singular circumstance that, as far as I can conjecture, no notice has been hitherto taken of a very egregious historical inaccuracy into which Sallust has fallen, in the speech which he has attributed to Cato, on the subject of the conspiracy of Cataline. The passage I allude to, is as follows:

"Apud Majores nostros, Titus Manlius Torquatus, bello Gallico, filium suum quod est contra imperium, in hostem pugnaverat, necari jussit."

"In the times of our forefathers, Titus Manlius Torquatus, in the Gallic war, ordered his own son to be executed, because he presumed to fight against the enemy, contrary to his express command."

To a person even slightly acquainted with the occurrences of the Roman History, it will instantly occur, that the death of Manlius Torquatus' son did not happen during this war with the Gauls, but with that in which the Romans were involved with their neighbours, the Latins; the similarity of dress, customs, discipline, language, &c. &c. which prevailed in the two adverse armies, made it necessary to enforce the strictest attention to the orders of the general. Considerations not at all necessary to be attended to in the contest with their Trans-Alpine antagonists.

The inaccuracy may have arisen in the mind of the historian, by the

following confusion of historical occurrences.

Titus Manlius, the father, signalized himself in the Gaulish wars, by killing a warrior of gigantic stature, and at tripping him of his golden collar, for which he received the *Agnomen* of *Torquatus*. See Livy, b. vii. c. 9.

Titus Manlius, the son of the former, was likewise equally signalized for his victory over Metius, the general of the Latin cavalry. See Livy, b. viii. c. 7.

It might have happened that the two circumstances with respect to the father and the son agreeing in so many points, had been confounded by Sallust. But what makes his inaccuracy wholly inexcusable, is that in the speech of Cato he gives the *Agnomen* *Torquatus*, in addition to the original name of T. Manlius, which should have brought to his mind the circumstances of the Gaulish war, and have served to guard him against this confusion of facts.

The error may be considered a trivial one: perhaps it may be so, but,

I hope, this will not expose me to the imputation of hypercriticism on the subject. In fact I have considered it no small heightening of the tragic scene, exhibited in the execution of the younger Manlius, that he suffered for his temerity in braving the orders of his general, to prove that the valour of the son had not degenerated from that of the father. In dilating on the inaccuracy of Sallust, I have rather sought an opportunity of exhibiting the fact in a point of view more interesting than can be expected from not reflecting, that young Manlius pleaded in excuse for his breach of discipline, that in accepting the challenge of Mutius and slaying him, he only proved himself the descendant of him who had exhibited the same process against the gigantic Gaul. Who is there who feels not the agonizing reflections which must have crossed the mind of his father, when he found himself compelled for such a fault, to offer the youthful warrior as a sacrifice to the safety of Rome.

Ancury, 1st Dec. 1808.

W.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The First, Second and Sixth Books of Euclid's Elements Demonstrated in general Terms, with Notes and Observations for the use of younger Students; by John Walker, late Fellow of Dublin College, 8vo. price 4s. 7d. Dublin printed by John Napper, 29. Capel-street, and sold by the author, 73 Lower Dorset-street, B. Dugdale, Dame-street, and M. Keene, College-green.

A GENTLEMAN (of Bristol if we remember aright) some few years back invented a mode of instructing pupils in the Elements of Euclid, by means of figures of timber, constructed in imitation of the diagrams, by which two notable advantages were obtained; more employment was cut out for that useful class of men, the country carpenters, and whenever a pupil was learning his lesson by the help of those wooden assistants, he might be said to have his business at his finger's ends.

But though we give all due credit to these devices, we must confess they are not of sufficient consequence, or merit to make us adopt or approve of them in the education of pupils, at any stage of life. By persons in the habit of instructing in the mathematics, it must have been frequently noticed how much young pupils are inclined to reason *specially* in that science, and with what difficulty they are brought to apply the principles of it generally. The difficulty is not a little increased by the unhappy though unavoidable use of letters, in the description of the sides or angles to be expressed. Where the lines or angles can be so easily pointed out by the pupil to the master, to retain the letters in proving the propositions, is only an incumbrance, and serves but to bind down the pupil's mind to the individual proposition; their only use consists in their being a substitute for the finger of a master, and

when they have acted in that capacity so as to effect a full demonstration, in the mind of the learner, they should be rejected altogether as superfluous, and consequently as an obstacle to that brevity and clearness so essentially necessary in mathematical reasoning.

The application of the wooden figures, already alluded to, is liable to too many objections, to require a serious refutation. It will be almost impossible to prevent a learner, on such a plan, from imbibing the idea that the science of mathematics emanates from, and is inherent in matter, and to a pupil labouring under such an impression, the higher geometry must be found to be a road strewn with thorns and briars.

The intention of the book under consideration is to do away this contracted mode of reasoning almost uniformly adopted by young students, from some of the reasons above-mentioned, and from the "*particularities of the diagram*," an intuition (as far as it could be accomplished consistent with existing circumstances) for which the public in general, and the student in particular, are deeply indebted to the author. The demonstrations (with a very few exceptions) are more concise than those adopted even by Elrington*, and are expressed at the same time with such clearness as to be evident to every capacity; the preliminary observations on these, those on the definitions of the first book, the Postulates and the axioms are such as may be read with advantage, even by the more advanced student. Those which are found interspersed in the body of the work, will amply repay the reader for his trouble.

In the observation on the 29th Prop. book the 1st. the following remarks on the deficiency of self-evidence in the 12th axiom of the 1st. Book. deserve particular notice. "Various have been the attempts of mathematicians, to remedy this imperfection; but, I believe, I may pronounce that not one of them has perfectly succeeded. If it be admitted that there

cannot be drawn 2 right lines parallel to the same right line, this proposition will easily follow, and upon the whole, I think that this principle might be advantageously substituted for Euclid's 12th axiom, which seems capable of being illustrated by it, and is therefore one remove further from self-evidence." We hope in the next edition of this work, the author will make an application of this principle, so as to do away the *reproach* of Geometry.

It appears from cursory remarks made in the book before us, and the compendium of Logic, published by the same author, that "he has not followed the leadings of his own judgment or taste in the above works." It is to be presumed from these remarks, and the subjects on which he has employed his pen, that he undertook the tasks principally with a view to benefit the Students of the Dublin University, a circumstance to be regretted, particularly in the definitions of the 5th book, a portion of the Elements in which he laboured under the alternative, either of abiding strictly by the definitions, as laid down by Elrington, or of endeavouring to illustrate them by means to which the minds of the generality of the students are unaccustomed; in either of which cases little advantage can be looked for, and we conceive it would be infinitely better to make a trifling innovation in the system of teaching mathematics in the university, than to allow the 6th Book to be got over, aided by definitions, either committed merely to memory or attempted to be illustrated by principles totally unknown to the student. The innovation we recommend, is the introduction of the elements of Algebra as a preparatory to the Elements of Euclid,† or at

† The following may serve as a specimen of the alteration suggested; suppose for example, it were required to give the pupil an idea of the 10th Definition; a little knowledge of Algebra, would enable him to understand the following proof. Let a, ar, ar^2 be 3 terms of a Geometrical Ratio—now if the 1st and 3d terms be x by a , it can be easily proved that the ratio remains the same, that is that $a : ar^2 :: a^2 : ar^3$, whether x , be considered a whole number or a deci-

* The propositions 7, 11, 15, 21, &c. in Mr. Walker's Euclid, compared with the same in Dr. Elrington's edition, will enable the reader to ascertain the fact.

least such part of them as might lead to a clear view of that necessary preliminary to an accurate knowledge of the 6th book, *a knowledge of ratios*.

As Mr Walker has turned his attention to the initiatory parts of the scientific course of the Under-graduates in the Dublin University, we trust he will not stop here. The remainder of the course equally needs his corrections and emendations, and from the specimens he has already afforded us of his manner of handling philosophical subjects, and from his general character for talents and erudition, we have every reason to augur most favourably from his interference. W.

Letters on the Subject of the Catholics, to my Brother Abraham, who lives in the country; by Peter Plymley, esq. the eleventh edition; London, printed for J. Budd, 1808; p.p. 175; price 5s. 6d. English.

THESE entertaining and interesting letters, come within our plan of noticing such works as more peculiarly relate to Irish affairs; for in them the witty and ingenious writer advocates with the combination of pointed railery and close argument, the cause of the emancipation of the Catholics of Ireland. Indeed we have never witnessed a closer union of wit and argument than in these letters:—for while we laugh, we are insensibly convinced. We think it augurs favourably of the increasing liberality of the English public, that these letters have reached the eleventh edition; we must of course suppose they have passed through many hands, and we think they cannot fail to have made many converts to the cause of justice and sound policy.

In the first letter he ridicules the dangers to be dreaded from popery, and speaks of the attempt to make the

mal, and thus can be proved, that if the number of terms be n , the ratio of the 1st is to that of the last, as $a^n - 1$ to $a - 1$, i.e. as those powers of the 1st and 2d terms of the progression whose exponents are the exponents of a in the last term.

To comprehend the above, it is only necessary for the pupil to be instructed in the Algebraical methods of multiplying, adding, dividing, and subtracting.

King's coronation oath a plea against further relaxation; here follows an extract on this subject, and also on the general tendency to persecution in former times:

"In 1778, the ministers said nothing about the royal conscience; in 1793 no conscience; in 1804 no conscience. The common feeling of humanity and justice then seem to have had their fullest influence upon the advisers of the crown: but in 1807—a year, I suppose, eminently fruitful in moral and religious scruples (as some years are fruitful in apples, some in hops)—it is contended by the well paid John Bowles, and by Mr. Percival (who tried to be well paid) that, that is now perjury which we had hitherto called policy and benevolence! Religious liberty has never made such a stride as under the reign of his present Majesty; nor is there any instance in the annals of our history, where so many infamous and damnable laws have been repealed, as those against the Catholics, which have been put an end to by him: and then, at the close of this useful policy, his advisers discover that the very measures of concession and indulgence, or (to use my own language) the measures of justice, which he has been pursuing through the whole of his reign, are contrary to the oath he takes at its commencement! I found in your letter the usual remark about fire, faggot, and bloody Mary. Are you aware, my dear priest, that there were as many persons put to death for religious opinions under the mild Elizabeth, as under the bloody Mary? The reign of the former was, to be sure, ten times as long; but I only mention the fact, merely to show you that something depends upon the age in which men live, as well as on their religious opinions. Three hundred years ago, men burnt and hanged each other for these opinions; time has softened Catholic as well as Protestant; they both required it; though each perceives only his own improvement, and is blind to that of the other. We are all the creatures of circumstances; I know not a kinder and better man than yourself; but you (if you had lived in those times) would certainly have roasted your Catholic: and I promise you if the first exciter of this religious mob,

had been as powerful then as he is now, you would soon have been elevated to the mitre. I do not go the length of saying, that the world has suffered as much from Protestant as from Catholic persecution; far from it: but you should remember, the Catholics had all the power, when the idea first started up in the world, that there could be two modes of faith, and that it was much more natural they should attempt to crush this diversity of opinion by great and cruel efforts, than that the Protestants should rage against those who differed from them, when the very basis of their system was complete freedom in all spiritual matters."

On the degradation suffered by Catholics, he thus remarks. "It is, in great part, that narrow and exclusive spirit which delights to keep the common blessings of sun, and air, and freedom from other human beings. "Your religion has always been degraded, you are in the dust, and I will take care you never rise again. I should enjoy less the possession of any earthly good, by every additional person to whom it was extended." You may not be aware of it yourself, most reverend Abraham, but you deny their freedom to the Catholics upon the same principle that Sarah, your wife, refuses to give the receipt for a ham or gooseberry dumplin: she values her receipts, not because they secure to her a certain flavour, but because they remind her that her neighbours want it:—a feeling, laughable in a priestess, shameful in a priest, venal when it with-holds the blessings of a ham, tyrannical and execrable when it narrows the boon of religious freedom."

It is painful to reflect that it is yet necessary to state the advantages of toleration; but late occurrences show that this is not yet an unnecessary task. Our author in a style of railery and sound argument peculiarly his own, adduces the instances of Scotland and Hungary to show the futility of persecution, and the advantages of toleration.

"If the great mass of the people, environed as they are on every side with Jenkinsons, Percevals, Melvilles, and other perils, were to pray for divine illuminations and aid, what more could Providence in its mercy do, than send them the example of Scotland?"

BELFAST MAG. NO. VI.

For what length of years was it attempted to compel the Scotch to change their religion! Horse, foot, artillery, and armed prebendaries were sent out after the Presbyterian Parsons, and their congregations! The Percevals of those days called for blood: this call is never made in vain, and blood was shed; but to the astonishment and horror of the Percevals of those days, they could not introduce the book of common prayer, nor prevent that metaphysical people from going to Heaven *their* true way, instead of *our* true way. With a little oatmeal for food, and a little sulphur for friction, allaying cutaneous irritation with one hand, and holding his calvinistical creed in the other, Sawney ran away to his flinty hills, sung his psalm out of tune his own way, and listened to his sermon of two hours long, amid the rough and imposing melancholy of the tallest thistles. But Sawney brought up his unbreeched offspring in a cordial hatred of his oppressors; and Scotland was as much a part of the weakness of England then, as Ireland is at this moment. The true and only remedy was applied; the Scotch were suffered to worship God after their own firesome manner, without pain, penalty, and privation. No lightnings descended from heaven; the country was not ruined; the world is not yet come to an end; the dignitaries, who foretold all these consequences, are utterly forgotten; and Scotland has ever since been an increasing source of strength to Great Britain. In the six hundredth year of our empire over Ireland, we are making laws to transport a man if he is found out of his house after eight o'clock at night. That this is necessary, I know too well; but tell me why is it necessary? It is not necessary in Greece, where the Turks are masters.

"It is impossible to think of the affairs of Ireland without being forcibly struck with the parallel of Hungary. Of her seven millions of inhabitants, one half were Protestants, Calvinists, and Lutherans, many of the Greek church, and many Jews: such was the state of their religious dissensions, that Mahomet had often been called into the aid of Calvin, and the crescent often glittered on the walls of Buda and of Presburg. At last, in 1791, during

the most violent crisis of disturbance, a diet was called, and by a great majority of voices a decree was passed, which secured to all the contending sects the fullest, and freest exercise of religious worship, and education; ordained (let it be heard in Hampstead) that churches, and chapels should be erected for all on the most perfect equal terms, that the Protestants of both confessions should depend upon their spiritual superiors alone, liberated them from swearing by the usual oath, "the Holy Virgin Mary, the Saints, and chosen of God," and then the decree adds, "that public offices and honours, high or low, great or small, shall be given to natural-born Hungarians who deserve well of their country, and possess the other qualifications, let their religion be what it may." Such was the line of policy pursued in a diet consisting of four hundred members, in a state whose form of government approached nearer to our own than any other, having a Roman Catholic establishment of great wealth and power, and under the influence of one of the most bigotted Catholic courts in Europe. This measure has now the experience of eighteen years in its favour; it has undergone a trial of fourteen years of revolution such as the world never witnessed, and more than equal to a century less convulsed: what have been its effects? when the French advanced like a torrent, within a few days' march of Vienna, the Hungarians rose in a mass; they formed what they call the sacred insurrection to defend their Sovereign, their rights and liberties now common to all; and the apprehension of their approach dictated to the reluctant Bonaparte the immediate signature of the treaty of *Leoben*: the Romish hierarchy of Hungary exists in all its former splendour and opulence, never has the slightest attempt been made to diminish it; and those revolutionary principles, to which so large a portion of civilized Europe has been sacrificed, have here failed in making the smallest successful inroad.

"In talking of the impossibility of Catholic and Protestant living together with equal privilege under the same government, do you forget the Cantons of Switzerland? You might have seen there a Protestant congregation go-

ing into a church which had just been quitted by a Catholic congregation, and I will venture to say that the Swiss Catholics were more bigotted to their religion than any people in the whole world.—Did the kings of Prussia ever refuse to employ a Catholic? Would Frederick the Great have rejected an able man on this account? We have seen Prince Czartorinski, a Catholic secretary of state in Russia: in former times, a Greek patriarch and an apostolic vicar acted together in the most perfect harmony in Venice; and we have seen the Emperor of Germany in modern times entrusting the care of his person, and the command of his guard to a Protestant Prince, Ferdinand of Wirtemberg. But what are all these things to Mr. Perceval? He has looked at human nature from the top of Hampstead-hill, and has not a thought beyond the little sphere of his own vision. "The snail," say the Hindoos, "sees nothing but its own shell, and thinks it the grandest palace in the universe."

On the subject of retaining ancient prejudices, and dignifying them with the title of the *wisdom of our ancestors*, as if length of time could justify error, or that ancient errors were entitled to more respect than modern ones, hear our witty author.

"I have often thought, if the *wisdom of our ancestors* had excluded all persons with red hair from the house of commons, of the throes and convulsions it would occasion to restore them to their natural rights. What mobs and riots would it produce? To what infinite abuse and obloquy would the capillary patriot be exposed; what worm-wood would distil from Mr. Perceval; what froth would drop from Mr. Canning! how (I will not say *my*, but *our* Lord Hawkesbury, for he belongs to us all) how *our* Lord Hawkesbury, would work away about the hair of King William, and Lord Somers, and the authors of the great and glorious revolution! how Lord Eldon would appeal to the Deity, and his own virtues, and to the hair of his children: some would say that red-haired men were superstitious; some would prove they were Atheists; they would be petitioned against as the friends of slavery, and the advocates for revolt; in short, such a corrupter

of the heart and the understanding, is the spirit of persecution, that these unfortunate people (conspired against by their fellow-subjects of every complexion) if they did not emigrate to countries where hair of another colour was persecuted, would be driven to the falsehood of perukes, or the hypocrisy of the Tricosian fluid."

Many remarks occur in these letters on the bad policy of with-holding emancipation from our Catholic fellow subjects, and on the measures of our general policy, which we are tempted to give as further extracts.

"Out of sight, out of mind, seems to be a proverb which applies to enemies as well as friends. Because the French army are no longer seen from the cliffs of Dover; because the sound of cannon was no longer heard by the debauched London bathers on the Sussex coast; because the *Morning Post* no longer fixed the invasion sometimes for Monday, sometimes for Tuesday, sometimes (positively for the last time for invading) on Saturday; because all these causes of terror were suspended, you conceived the power of Bonaparte to be at an end, and were setting off for Paris, with Lord Hawkesbury, the conqueror: this is precisely the method in which the English have acted during the whole of the revolutionary war. If Austria or Prussia armed, Doctors of divinity immediately printed those passages out of Habbakkuk, in which the destruction of the Usurper by General Mack, and the Duke of Brunswick, are so clearly predicted. If Bonaparte halted, there was a mutiny or a dysentery. If any one of his Generals were eaten up by the light troops of Russia, and picked (as their manner is) to the bone, the sanguine spirit of this country displayed itself in all its glory."

"Our conduct to Ireland, during the whole of this war, has been that of a man who subscribes to hospitals, weeps at charity sermons, carries out broth and blankets to beggars, and then comes home and beats his wife and children. We had compassion for the victims of all other oppression and injustice, except our own. If Switzerland was threatened, away went a treasury clerk with a hundred thou-

sand pounds for Switzerland; large bags of money were kept constantly under sailing orders: upon the slightest demonstration towards Naples, down went Sir William Hamilton upon his knees, and begged for the love of St. Januarius they would help us off with a little money; all the arts of Machiavel were resorted to, to persuade Europe to borrow; troops were sent off in all directions to save the Catholic and Protestant world; the Pope himself was guarded by a regiment of English Dragoons; if the Grand Lama had been at hand, he would have had another; every Catholic clergyman who had the good fortune to be neither English or Irish, was immediately provided with lodging, soup, crucifix, missal, chapel beads, relics, and holy water; if Turks had landed, Turks would have received an order from the treasury for coffee, opium, korans, and seragios. In the midst of all this fury of saving, and defending, this crusade for conscience and Christianity, there was an universal agreement among all descriptions of people to continue every species of internal persecution; to deny at home every just right that had been denied before; to pummel poor Dr. Abraham Rees and his Dissenters; and to treat the unhappy Catholics of Ireland as if their tongues were mute, their heels cloven, their nature brutal, and designedly subjected by Providence to their Orange Masters."

"I am so far from conceiving the legitimate strength of the crown would be diminished by these abolitions of civil incapacities in consequence of religious opinions, that my only objection to the increase of religious freedom is, that it would operate as a diminution of political freedom: the power of the crown is so overbearing at this period, that almost the only steady opposers of its fatal influence are men disgusted by religious intolerance. Our establishments are so enormous, and so utterly disproportioned to our population, that every second or third man you meet in society gains something from the public: my brother, the commissioner; my nephew the police justice; purveyor of small beer to the army in Ireland; clerk of the mouth; yeo-

man to the left hand; these are the obstacles which common sense, and justice have now to overcome."

"I detest Jacobinism, and if I am doomed to be a slave at all, I would rather be the slave of a King, than a Cobler. God save the King! you say, warms your heart like the sound of a trumpet. I cannot make use of so violent a metaphor; but I am delighted to hear it, when it is the cry of genuine affection; I am delighted to hear it, when they hail not only the individual man, but the outward and living sign of all English blessings. These are noble feelings, and the heart of every good man must go with them; but God save the King, in these times, too often means, God save my pension and my place; God give my sisters an allowance out of the privy purse; make me clerk of the irons; let me survey the meltings; let me live upon the fruits of other men's industry, and fatten upon the plunder of the public."*

It is now proper to quit making further extracts, though we could give many more, which we doubt not would entertain our readers, but we cannot resist the inclination to bring forward one more, on the subject of the expedition to Copenhagen. We have never viewed this transaction but with sorrow, and have many times sighed over the honour of our country, and the unblushing effrontery by which it was defended by many of our countrymen. This act has ranked us among the plunderers of Europe, and left us little room to exclaim against the encroachments of Bonaparte. Our hands are not sufficiently clean to appear against him in the court of conscience. We also lamented the departure in this instance from the *old morality*, because we feared the vindication of such political departure from rectitude, would imperceptibly injure the nice feelings of private morality, in the breast of individuals.

"Was there no other way of protecting Ireland but by bringing eternal shame on Great Britain, and by mak-

ing the earth a den of robbers? See what the men whom you have supplanted would have done. They would have rendered the invasion of Ireland impossible, by restoring to the Catholics their long lost rights; they would have acted in such a manner that the French would neither have wished for invasion, nor dared to attempt it; they would have encreased the permanent strength of the country, while they preserved its reputation unsullied. Nothing of this kind your friends have done, because they are solemnly pledged to do nothing of this kind; because to tolerate all religions, and to equalize civil rights to all sects is to oppose some of the worst passions of our nature; to plunder and to oppress is to gratify them all. They wanted the huzzas of mobs, and they have for ever blasted the fame of England to obtain them. Were the fleets of Holland, France and Spain, destroyed by larceny? You resisted the power of one hundred and fifty sail of the line by sheer courage, and violated every principle of morals, from the dread of fifteen hulks, while the expedition itself cost you three times more than the value of the larcenous matter brought away. The French trample upon the laws of God and man, not for old cordage, but for kingdoms, and always take care to be well paid for their crimes. We contrive, under the present administration, to unite moral with intellectual deficiency, and to grow weaker and worse by the same action. If they had any evidence of the intended hostility of the Danes, why was it not produced? Why have the nations of Europe been allowed to feel an indignation against this country, beyond the reach of all subsequent information? Are these times, do you imagine, when we can trifle with a year of universal hatred, dally with the curses of Europe, and then regain a lost character at pleasure, by the parliamentary perspiration of the foreign secretary, or the solemn asseverations of the pecuniary Rose? Believe me, Abraham, it is not under such ministers as these that the dexterity of honest Englishmen will ever equal the dexterity of French knaves; it is not

* "God continue the war, that my son may rise in the army," is the loyal effusion of many a parent.

in their presence that the serpent of Moses will ever swallow up the serpents of the Magicians."

We take leave of this lively writer by recommending the perusal of the book to our readers, and we think our booksellers might find their interest in importing some copies of it. The writer is not blind to Catholic errors any more than to other errors. He is not so enamoured of his subject as to treat it like his mistress, whom he "loved not only in spite of her failings, but even for her very failings." But he shows the bad policy of withholding emancipation from our Catholic brethren, or attempting to coerce opinions by political disabilities. Let truth stand on its own foundation, without the props of human authority, or of human prejudices, which only disfigure the venerable structure. K.

A Letter addressed to the late Grand Jury of the county of Armagh, with some observations on the subject of Tithes and mode of collecting them; by a Killeavy weaver. 1808; Dublin, printed by John King. p. p. 16. price 10d.

THE assumed name of a Killeavy weaver is not appropriate, for we believe few weavers in this country are so well acquainted with the writings of Junius, Montesquieu, Blackstone, &c. as to quote familiarly from them. Passing by this inconsistency, let us examine the purport of the letter.

Our readers are already acquainted with the proceedings of the two last grand juries of the county of Armagh, on the subject of tithes, as referred to in our political retrospect, for December, written before we saw this pamphlet. This letter appears to have been written previous to the last assizes, and successfully combats the unfair attempt made to turn public attention from the subject of tithes, by recriminations about rents and county taxes; "the one," says the writer, "a heavy tax, laid on industry and agriculture, the tenth, not of the produce but of the profit of the farmer: to pay a clergy, who do not *always* perform their part of the compact, by doing what

they are paid for; the other (county tax) a fluctuating tax laid on the people by themselves for the good of the community at large; a taxation falling on the richer, and flowing immediately into the pockets of the poorer, eventually tending much to the civilization and improvement of the country, by facilitating communication, by public buildings, and by public institutions; a tax necessarily increased by a war, as far as relates to the support of the families of the militia; in short it is a tax hitherto paid without a murmur, and levied without oppression."

Although we are far from denying that jobbing exists in many instances in presentments of grand juries (indeed we know they often do exist, and that they bear hard on the poorer landholder) yet we are decidedly of the judgment, that the attempt to involve the subject of tithes with this extraneous matter, was merely to lead away from the investigation of the mode in which tithe had been collected in some parishes in that county, and as a departure from fair reasoning deserves reprobation.

The author pleads only for a change in the mode of the payment of tithes; he says, "they were the institutions of man, and have grown rank by the cultivation of man." They may still answer the purpose of their institution as to the support of the clergy, and become oppressive and intolerable to the people, in the mode of exaction; and when the people think they have become so, they have a right to ask redress in a constitutional manner; in that way they now complain, and in that way they now ask redress; and the people seldom complain without reason, and ought never to be heard without attention."

Several instances are adduced to show by what means ingenuity has been exerted to lay aside bargains for tithes, when they are supposed by the incumbent, to become disadvantageous to him, to which the writer adds, "The Bishops approve of, or at least are silent on, such occasions: they sit unmoved at such transactions."

The subject of tithes is of the highest importance to the welfare of this country. May it be often brought into

public view, and discussed with diligent attention and firmness, though with great calmness and moderation! K.

Odes Choires de Horace traduites en vers François par Mons. de Montville professeur de Langue Frdnçois, 2 tom. p.p. 406. Dublin, Downes, 1808.

A FRENCH translation of Horace, written and published in Dublin should attract our attention from its novelty. Our attention will be arrested when we find that the translation has been executed not without some degree of merit; and that the writer, though he has by no means completely succeeded by producing a version in all points worthy of the original, has demonstrated the practicability of what M. Dacier supposed impossible, the giving a poetic dress in the French Language to the prince of Roman Lyrists. Such an attempt if executed with any degree of ability is highly praise-worthy: for it must be the opinion of every one who has read a prose translation of a poet, that it gives no idea of the real beauties of the original. It is a lifeless corpse, a body without a soul; we may observe the proportion of the parts, nay we may have a better opportunity of discovering the internal mechanism, the artful arrangement and adaptation of the several members which produce such powerful effects on our minds, but we vainly look for that living principle, that spark of divinity, which gave life and spirit, and grace to it when living. To be convinced of this, we need but compare Macpherson's prose translation of the Iliad, with that of Pope or even of Cowper.

The work before us is a selection of some of the Odes of Horace; such perhaps, as most accorded with the writer's taste, or appeared to him best fitted to assume a modern habit. But before entering on any investigation of their merits, it may not be improper to mention the cause of their being written, for this should justly have some weight in determining our opinion of their merits. In

doing this we give the author's own words. "While I was spending some time with a friend, at a dinner which followed the examination of the literary progress of his young pupils, whom he is preparing with the most attentive care for the fulfilment of the different duties which they will have hereafter to perform in the world, and whom he retains in the bounds of respect and duty, by a gentle discipline, which makes a much greater impression on the youthful heart, than a forbidding austerity; at this dinner, at which my friend as usual presided with the politeness and affability of a man of the world, I was asked to sing. As I was a stranger, though able to express my thoughts with fluency and correctness in English, I thought that a song in that language would possess little beauty in my mouth, and I knew that a French song would afford but little entertainment to a great part of the company. I therefore proposed to sing an Ode of Horace. My offer was unanimously accepted; and Horace was produced; and then *inter pocula* (over our cups) as the greater part of these charming and sublime songs have been composed, I sung some of my favourites; among the rest, *Jam satis terribis*; and *Odi profanum vulgus*. The next morning, still inspired by my friend's excellent wine, and by the enthusiasm which the divine strains of that sweet writer had inspired the preceding evening, I attempted to translate some of them, particularly the two just mentioned; and on reading them, I judged them to possess sufficient merit to venture to show them to my friend and to another person of equal respectability, who, to use the words of my author is perfectly *doctus sermonis utriusque lingue*. Both these, with several others, expressed their lively approbation of my *coup d'essai*, and assured me that if I did not continue the translation, they could attribute it to nothing but the most culpable indolence. Such encouragement induced me to attempt the work, and about the beginning of last October, I began my translation regularly."

With such motives for writing

we cannot be severe in our remarks. Indeed we have been so much amused at the politeness of the lively Frenchman, which exhibited itself in a form so original, that we proceeded in the perusal with a desire to find subjects for praise. By the bye we are somewhat at a loss to guess at the kind of air with which he accompanied the verses, nor can we help congratulating him on the select party he was engaged in, which, though unacquainted with French, could taste the beauties of a Latin ode. We have never been so fortunate. In whatever company we have joined, we venture to say that the greater part would have been equally at a loss, be the language what it might, except plain English: and at the same time must remark that our Anacreontic translator must be a great stranger to the manners of this country, or he would have known that singing in an unknown tongue is so far from being a breach of politeness, that it is now considered as an undeniable mark of superior refinement. The lovers of Italian music are often gratified with strains, which are equally unintelligible to the hearers, and to the fair performer who excites the extatic admiration of her enraptured, we had almost said, her long-eared auditory.

In the translation of a poet, so nervous and energetic as Horace, into a language, which together with the inferiority inherent in all modern European languages, labours under a peculiar barrenness of expression that weakens and unhinges it, the greatest difficulty to be contended with, is the unnerving and frittering away the dignity of the original, by employing periphrases necessary to convey the full meaning of the author. It was impossible to prevent this altogether, but M. de Monteville seems to have been aware of the difficulty and to have struggled against it in some cases with success. The ode, *O navis referent in mare,* is translated concisely and is nearly, though not altogether free from this fault.

Navire infortuné ! cesse, que vas tu faire ?
Sur la mer en courroux voudrais tu t'ex-
poser ?

Ah ! crois moi, reste au port, ne quitte point
la terre

Boite le danger.

Ne vois tu pas tes bancs depourvus de
rames ?

Par les vents Africains tes mats sont
fracasés :

Sans cordages comment peux tu braver les
lames

Dont tes flancs sont frappés.

Ta voile déchirée, hélas ! est inutile.

Tu ne vois plus de Dieux que tu puisses
invoquer,

Enfant d'une forêt en nobles pins fertile,
Rien ne te peut sauver.

Le matelot timide, effrayé de l'orage,
N'a point recours aux Dieux sur ta poupe
gravés

Crains donc de t'exposer aux horreurs du nau-
frage ;

Crains les vents irrités.

O toi ! qui me causses des peines si cruelles ;
Et pour qui je ressens tant de chagrins
amers,

Evites avec soin ces Cyclades horribles
Qui brillent sur les mers.

The following extract is, on the contrary, a striking example of the defect just alluded to, where we see a single line spun out to a complete stanza.

*Te minor latum reget æquus orbem ;
Tu gravi curru quaties Olympum,
Tu parvum castis inimica mittes
Fulmina lucis.*

The translation is as follows :

..... toujours respectueux,
Il verra sa grandeur à la votre seconde ;
Content de son partage, il bornera ses vœux
A commander au monde.

Et vous—donnant aux Dieux de souve-
rains loix,

Roulerez dans les cieux votre char redout-
able ;

Et vos mains lanceront sur nos profanes bois
Votre foudre implacable.

In some cases he is so far from confining himself to his author's expressions, that he contents himself with giving a sense somewhat similar, as in the following instance :

Quid si prisca redivit Venus
Diductosque jugo cogit æneæ ?
Si flava excutitur Chloe,
Rejectaque patet janua Lydia.

Which is thus translated, or rather imitated.

Mais si je reprenois ta chaîne,
Si tu redevenois l'objet de mon amour ?

Si rejettant Chloé, ma reine
A toi je consacrais le reste de mes jours.

The ode *Jam veris Comites*, which in our opinion would have better suited the hilarity of a convivial party than those selected by the translator, does credit to his talents. We shall quote a few of the first stanzas, referring the reader to the book itself for the remainder, and for several others in the same style.

Deja par les Zephyrs, compaguons du
printems

Qui seuls calment les mers, nos voiles sont
efflés;

Nos prés sous les frimats ne sont plus
blanchissans;

Et de neige les eaux ne coulent plus gon-
flées.

Pleurant toujours Itys, l'objet de ses fu-
reurs,

On voit deja le nid de la triste hirondelle;
Pour avoir trop puni de brutals ardeurs,
Elle est pour sa famille une honte eternelle.

De leurs joyeux haut-bois mêlés a leurs
chansons,

Les bergers font deja retentir la prairie:
Et plaisent a ce Dieu, qui comble de ses
dons

Les troupeaux bondissans, et les monts
d'Arcadie.

The author states himself to be a teacher of the French language; we think his book may be extremely useful for the purposes of instruction; many students learn French and Latin at the same time; and this mode of study is thought, not without reason, to be attended with peculiar advantage; each elucidates the other. It serves much the same purpose as the double translations practised by Gibbon, and so strongly recommended by him. Even those who are unacquainted with Latin, will reap both pleasure and improvement, in attaining some knowledge of the original through this medium, which will at the same time give them some taste of the beauties of Horace, while it promotes their knowledge of a language now not only fashionable but necessary.

We have already been forced to pass some severe censures on the state of the Dublin press. This book proves we have not been singular or unjustly severe; at the conclusion of his preface M. de Montville claims a special indulgence on this score. "I intreat the

reader's indulgence," says he, "particularly for the faults of the printing, which could not fail of occurring through the negligence and ignorance of the printers of this city, who do not understand a single word of either language, and, who, notwithstanding all the attention paid to correctness, always finish their part of the work by leaving a croud of errors." The book itself, and more especially the latter part, affords too many proofs of the justice of the complaint.

Le Comte de Corke Surnommé le Grand, ou Seduction sans Artifice suivi de cinq Nouvelles. Par Madame de Genlis; 12mo. 2 vols. p.p. 468. Colburn, London, 1808.

FROM the multiplicity of novels of a bad tendency, the name itself has fallen into disrepute. Yet we would be far from joining in the general outcry against them. They have been, no doubt, in many instances prejudicial to society, but they have also been in many others powerful auxiliaries to virtue. They are intimately connected with public manners, and these may justly be stiled minor morals, partly guiding, and partly following the prevailing fashions of the day; they have from the former cause, often deviated from their legitimate end, the improvement of the mind, and from the latter they have induced their admirers to deviate still farther from an attention to the same desirable object, by setting before them defective or vicious models of imitation. But the abuse hence originating must be remedied, not by the endeavour, in itself impossible, of banishing novels altogether from the libraries of those who make books the mirror in which their minds are fashioned, but by such a judicious selection, as will represent truth and morality and virtue in their proper forms undistorted by the mists of ignorance, or the perversions of intentional misrepresentation. An indiscriminate exclusion would deprive us of a fund of the most instructive entertainment. It is indeed pleasing to observe that though this description of writing still continues in many in-

stances to be the vehicle of insipidity, the vent for ill-natured and personal invective, and even the guide to immorality; many writers of the first ability have lately stepped forward to vindicate its real merit, and by well-drawn pictures of the world in which we live, have given lessons of the utmost utility, particularly to the rising generation, into whose hands such books are likely to fall, to deter from vice, and to lead by well selected examples to the practice of those virtues which endear, elevate and ennoble the possessor. Why then has not the name of novel been yet rescued from the unmerited obloquy with which it has been so long aspersed? It is because vice floats on the surface, virtue lies below; the former forces itself on our sight, meets us in every street and avenue, flares in our places of public resort, nay, often insults us in our more select and retired society. The latter, silent and unobtrusive, must be sought for before it be sufficiently known to obtain its due tribute of respectful imitation. We daily see and hear of the bad effects of novel-reading; we can trace the rise of many a rake, debauchee and dissolute character to this source; most of the unfortunate females who shock the ears of modesty, and wring the heart of pity in the streets of our capitals, attribute, or affect to attribute their downfall to this cause; but we cannot see the many instances of youth and inexperience led along the path of rectitude and virtue by these silent and impressive monitors. If history be the preceptor of kings, biography is that of private persons; and what is a well constructed novel but a memoir, containing in itself the quintessence of biography, the metal without the dross.

It is unnecessary here to enumerate, or even to point out the best of this class; among many others who have directed their talents to this praiseworthy purpose, we might cite the respectable names of an Edgeworth, and a Hamilton, whose writings have reflected much honour on this country. In this class, the writer, whose publication has given rise to the preceding reflections holds a high place. Her writings, viewed in this light, bear the most rigid test; it is not that a moral

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may be extracted from them: the moral is evidently the primary intention, the narrative merely the clothing in which it is conveyed, so as to excite attention and interest. Commencing her career with a highly valuable treatise on education introduced in this popular form, she has continued during the course of a long life to pursue the same plan, to enforce the several duties, to animate to the several virtues of life by these unsuspected lessons, and even her latest writings though, perhaps, inferior to her former productions, deficient in the *purpureum lumen juvenatæ*, and tinged, though but slightly tinged, with the failure of declining years, still tend to the same end, and are the well-intended conclusion of the same design.

Several new works have lately come from the pen of Me. de Genlis. We have selected this, because it presents a portrait of a countryman, honourable to the Irish character, and worthy of the imitation of Irishmen. We have said, more than once, *Ireland is our station*. We repeat it: we glory in that national feeling, that *amor patriæ*, which turns all our thoughts, and bends all our exertions to the improvement of our native land. And we cannot but feel flattered that a foreigner, a native of a country whose predominant passion is national vanity, should have selected an Irishman as an example of a spirit of inbred honour triumphing over the most powerful and seducing impulses of the heart; and this feeling of honest pride is heightened by the consciousness that the figure here represented is not an ideal creature of the imagination, but a likeness drawn from nature. The piece is founded on historical facts; the most remarkable incidents of the early part of the life of the Earl of Corke, are preserved and interwoven with the narrative so as to appear to arise naturally during the train of circumstances.

Richard Boyle, the hero of the narrative, is represented as an orphan, who is indebted for his support and education to a benevolent man, who resides at a village a few miles distant from Dublin. Here he spent his days in obscure retirement, solely devoted to the improvement of his mind, and to the cultivation of a

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garden, which surrounded the cottage, that the generosity of his patron had made his dwelling. External circumstances are the second cause even of the greatest events. The attention bestowed on his garden, brings into notice the qualities produced by the culture of his mind. The Earl of Essex, the prime favourite of Elizabeth, was at this time in Ireland, in a public capacity. And when at the Black-rock, which is here said to have been then as it was till a few years ago, a fashionable place of summer retirement for the people of rank in Dublin, he was struck with the elegant simplicity of the young cottager's retreat; curiosity induced him to examine it more particularly, and his admiration was soon transferred from the place to its owner. After a conversation with Richard, in which the English nobleman quickly discovered the germ of inborn greatness concealed beneath an external rusticity, he wrote on the young man's tablets the following words: *Richard Boyle will render his name illustrious.* 'To a soul formed for greatness, this was more than sufficient to inflame the latent sparks of ambition. His cottage, garden, books, were now but secondary objects; all his faculties were absorbed in the means of fulfilling the prediction of his new friend, whom he had already mentally fixed on as his future patron and present model. He becomes discontented; and at length prevails on his old patron to accompany him to London. On their journey thither, during the course of which some occurrences of inferior importance are made the vehicle of some useful lessons to his sanguine and inexperienced mind, they are informed that the Queen attended by Essex, is on a journey to the coast to review the navy. This information induces them to change their course. On their arrival they see, they are gratified with the sight of their sovereign; but this pleasure is damped in Richard, by observing that Essex had seen and passed him unnoticed. Dejected, but not discouraged, he resolves on another attempt to introduce himself, and follows the court to London. Essex had just quitted it on some public duty; and Richard mortified and hum-

bled, returns to his cottage, there again to devote himself to his studies, until a more favourable opportunity occurs of gratifying the ruling passion of his breast.

But now a new impediment is thrown in the way of his present studies and future prospects. Lady Ranelagh, a widow, young, noble and beautiful, induced by the same motives which had led the former visitor to this spot, appears in his cottage. The first conversation gives rise to sensations never felt before. If he is struck with the charms of the stranger, she is equally affected with the singular contrast between the character and situation of Richard. After a variety of circumstances, the value of which those only who have loved can truly estimate; she also took her leave of this part of the country, leaving her young admirer lost in an indescribable labyrinth of contradictory sensations. But in this, as in the former case, he finds a new incentive to encourage him in the line of conduct he had before adopted. Honourable ambition is stimulated by love: he resolves, as he had before with respect to Lord Essex, to make himself worthy of lady Ranelagh.

A new character now presents itself. Sir Charles Marwood, who is employed in an official capacity in Ireland, hearing of Richard's qualifications, which had by this time been the theme of conversation, wishes to engage him as his private secretary. The young man induced by a desire of rising in the great world, and deprived of the society of his first friend, who had lately paid the debt of nature, accepts the offer, and accompanies his patron to his seat in the county of Wicklow. Here he unexpectedly meets the object of his passion, and in spite of her endeavours to keep him at a distance, and destroy his hopes, by an affected air of coldness and severity, a trivial expression which drops from her, discovers to his quick and awakened sagacity, that she is not insensible to his merits. From this time he acts with the confidence of a favoured lover, and though his respect withholds him from betraying the smallest symptom of his attachment, he finds daily means of informing her of it in private. Lady Ranelagh, who cannot brook the idea of having

set her affections on an object so much below her, treats him with increased rigour: but while he strictly adheres to the letter of her mandates, so completely adverse to his hopes, he acts in direct opposition to their spirit, and thus insensibly gains the heart of this

high-minded female, who cannot but admire the perseverance and spirit with which he struggles against the accumulated obstacles which oppose the attainment of his purpose.

To be continued in our next.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

HISTORY.

NARRATIVE of the Campaign which preceded the Convention of Cintra, by J. J. Stockdale, 4s.

BIOGRAPHY.

Memoirs of Count Joseph de Puisaye, in two parts, vol. the 6th.

Memoirs of Wm. Paley D. D. By G. W. Meadley 8vo.

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The Exemplary life and Character of James Bonnel esq. late Accountant General in Ireland, by Wm. Hamilton A. M. Archdeacon of Armagh. 5th edit. 12mo. 4s.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

FROM month to month the field of foreign politics becomes more contracted; war has visited almost every part of the Continent, from the frontiers of Russia to the Straits of Gibraltar. Denmark and Sweden, Prussia and Poland, Holland and Switzerland, Germany and Italy, have, in turn, been scorched with the flames, and what, at one time, threatened an universal conflagration upon the Continent, may be said to have gradually burnt out, and unless fresh fuel be administered, will probably be soon totally extinguished. Much the greater part of Europe enjoys a state of comparative and unusual tranquillity, and war is now confined to a southern peninsula, almost set apart from the rest of the Continent.

It is remarkable, that France and England, the two great hostile powers, have hitherto experienced least of the war in its immediate and most disastrous effects. They have both, by different means, employed their power and their policy to avert the conflict from their own, into other countries. Those countries have supplied the fields of battle, and in a great degree have suffered the consequences, whether as enemies to France, or auxiliaries of Britain. How much longer this policy of the contending powers can be pursued with the same success, is becoming every day more doubtful. After having battled it through the circuit of Europe, the question now is coming home, *where* the war which took its rise in France, is about to terminate?

Without giving any answer to this question, we should rather be inclined to assert, from the aspect of affairs abroad, and their natural influence on those at home, that every thing approximates gradually, though but slowly, to general peace, *necessary* peace. Endless war with all the world, appears to us nothing better than a re-publication of Don Quixote, with splendid additions, and the new idea of keeping a *floating* army on the coasts of Spain, ready to make predatory incursions upon different

parts of the peninsula, much as the Danes, in former days, were accustomed to make on England and Ireland, such a mode of warfare will redound little to the interest, and less to the glory of Great Britain. Her character will, by such a splenetic invasion, be placed on a level with the Buccaneers of South America, in the opinion of Europe.

Our Retrospect of foreign politics for the present month is therefore happily abridged. Spain, and the American States are the chief, if not the only subjects of observation, for as to the victory at Vimiera, and the convention of Cintra, these visions of glory and of disgrace now begin to fade in the remembrance, and most people will join in thinking of the latter event, that the sooner it is forgotten, the better. Another convulsion has indeed taken place in the epileptic government of *TURKEY*, and Mustapha Bariactar, the grand Vizier, has been obliged to fly, along with the grand Signior himself, on board one of the Turkish fleet, for attempting to reform the military establishment. Such a reform, will probably never be effected, by such intestine revolutions. Turkey itself, must be subjected to a powerful conqueror from abroad, who may have the will and ability to crumble the Janissaries into their original dust; to break and disperse them into individual particles; to abolish their institution fully and finally, not by half measures, nor by forming and training before their faces, a rival institution, against which they vow vengeance, and in secret whet their sabres. Until a radical revolution take place, Constantinople will be doomed to see for ever, what it has seen, a hideous succession of headless Sultans, and a brute populace from time to time illumined only by the glare of periodical conflagrations. To those who refer, and justly refer, the happiness of nations to the salutary influence of wise and equitable government, combined with the mild fraternity of the Christian religion, it must afford pleasure to contrast the

convulsory state of the Turkish empire, with the

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"From Hudson's Bay (to make an appropriate quotation) from Hudson's Bay, with the small interruption of Canada, to the Mississippi, this immense continent beholds the religion of Jesus, unconnected with the patronage of government, subsisting in independent, yet friendly communities, breathing that universal charity which constitutes its vital spirit, and offering, with its distinct yet blending tones, one grand combination of harmony, to the ear of its heavenly father." Such is the aspect of these states with regard to religion, and as a *political* power, in despite of British parties, we must, in the impartiality of human nature declare, that it sustains its dignity, and sovereign independence, more decisively, and with more sublime self-denial, than any nation has done on the continent of Europe. In a most difficult, critical, and dangerous situation, they conduct the affairs of their government so as to make it respected, if not feared by the great hostile powers; and as every nation in Europe, by becoming a party in the contest, has renounced all mediation, we know not where impartial neutrality necessary to the character of mediator will be found upon the globe, unless it be sought for across the Atlantic, in the Congress of America.

Notwithstanding the mutual aggression of the belligerent powers upon their sovereignty, as well as their indisputable right to navigate the ocean; notwithstanding the capture of their vessels, the impressment of their seamen, and the maritime war carried on against them, *their* retaliation amounts only to the adoption of a preservative system, which may, at least, for a time avoid the evils of war, and consist with their independence; such a system, as secured them *at first*, the distinction of a sovereign nation. In consequence, they resolve that they cannot submit to the late edicts of Great Britain or France, without a sacrifice of their rights, honour, and independence; they prohibit all entrance into their ports of all vessels belonging to either of the hostile powers, and all

importation of goods from any of their dominions; and they agree to take the most effectual and immediate measures for placing the country in a more complete state of defence. We feel a confidence that peace in Europe will supersede these preparatives of war, and that the wise, energetic, and consistent deportment of America will be most materially instrumental in the accomplishment of this truly glorious event. Glorious indeed, if the new world, so lately savage, would be able to mediate the peace of Europe, so long civilized, and in return for the evils suffered and suffering from the vindictive animosities of rival powers, would pour a pacific oil, upon the tossing of their turbulent passions; and smooth with the spirit of Christianity the agitations of their inordinate ambition.

SPAIN.

The city of Madrid surrendered on the 4th instant, to the French, under a humiliating capitulation, the whole of the regular army in garrison, being made prisoners of war, and the peasantry disarmed and dispersed to their respective villages. The actuating motive of Spanish resistance has been religious zeal, rather than public spirit. The sacred name of patriotism has been circulated from *mouth to mouth*. Juntas have pledged their lives and fortunes. Governors have sworn to bury themselves in the ruins of the places they had to defend. But, than all the reliques of their religion, better would it have been to have consecrated with appropriate zeal and fidelity, a single stone from the *ruins of Numantia*.

The whole city of Madrid, thirty thousand fathers of families, were on the 24th, rushing in crowds to the altars, where the *priests* are attending to administer the oath of fidelity to their new sovereign.

The autocrat of France has not lost a moment to follow up his military successes, by what may be called political victories. The inquisition annihilated; the system of alienating by donation or sale, the right of collecting the public revenues, abolished; the abolition of feudal rights, and manorial jurisdictions, peculiarly oppressive upon the people; the limitation of monasteries; the better main-

tenance of active pastors; the act of amnesty, with few exceptions; all these may be considered as so many battles gained over the central junta, and which it has lost by its hesitation, its improvidence, or its selfishness. This central junta is now at Seville, in the southern extremity of Spain.

On the 22d, Bonaparte is said to have left Madrid to meet Sir John Moore, who had made a junction with the corps of Sir David Baird. This junction, however it might have been obstructed by the weather, or the bad condition of the roads, never seems to have met any hindrance on the part of the enemy, very probably with a view of drawing on the whole army further into the heart of Spain; from the defiles of Galicia into the plains of Leon, or old Castile. After being stationary a considerable time (from 15th ult. to 16th inst.) which has not hitherto been well accounted for; Sir John advanced on the 16th from Toro to Carrion, in the way to Saldanha, with a view of attacking Soult, who was in that quarter, with about 16,000 men; but on hearing that he was reinforced, and by a letter from *Romaha on his left*, that the French were advancing from Madrid, Sir J. Moore lost no time to secure his retreat. In all the partial skirmishes of the cavalry, the British, though inferior in numbers, appear to have been successful, and whether this was in consequence of the *Parthian* system, adopted often by the French, with a view of accomplishing their greater object, is hard to determine. Sir John Moore, it is said, had not many hours to lose in making good a retreat, without prosecuting the attempt upon Soult, which it is probable was a leading object; for surely his now professed one of making with an army of 40,000 men, a mere diversion in favour of the Spaniards in the south, *at a great risk*, as he acknowledges, to his own army, can scarcely be deemed an adequate reason for his forward movement; and how can that diversion be deemed "complete," which does not appear to have met with any correspondent movement in the south (30,000 French having been left at Madrid) while at

the same time it exposed the British force if not to great disaster, at least to the consequences of a retreat, which must in itself always greatly dispirit, and in doing so, debilitate an army. Had he advanced farther, Sir John Moore would probably have had Buonaparte in his front, and Soult in his rear.

ENGLAND.

Parliament met on the 19th. They are informed in the King's Speech, delivered by commission, "that the only way of obtaining a safe and honourable peace, is by a vigorous prosecution of the war; that overtures of peace were rejected, of which a preliminary condition was the abandonment of Spain, with which country, in addition to the royal assurance of support, there has been formed a treaty of friendship and alliance, including the king of Sweden, and which only waits for ratification; that with a revenue continuing to flourish, the contest may be carried on without additional burthens, that the plan for a local militia has succeeded, and that steps are to be taken for the increase of the regular army."

And never surely in the history of Great Britain has there occurred a period in which there was a like dictatorial necessity "for the general council of ablest men, chosen by the people, to consult of public affairs, from time to time, for the public good." Never surely was it more necessary than at the present period, to establish through the medium of parliament, such a community of interest and reciprocity of obligation, between the government and the *whole* people, as may raise a barrier against that colossal power which threatens the extinction of all the ancient monarchies of Europe. This surely is not the time when any new watchword will be raised, or any old one revived, that may effectually divide and distract the inhabitants of these countries, inclosed and beleaguered as they are like to be, in a circumvallation of European hostility. Will the cry of Jacobinism be again raised against those who assert that a vigorous prosecution of the war, has turned out a very round about road to the at-

tainment of peace; that it seems rather to have aggrandized the power of the enemy, and to have had a revolutionary effect in the different states of Europe, than to secure their permanence and establishment? Bonaparte is a strange conjunction of the Jacobin and the despot.—But we are interrupted by the calamitous tidings of the day, which render us unwilling and unable to make at this time, further review of the past. All retrospect must give way to the force of the present impression. Let us make the pause of nature and sympathy....one of the finest armies that ever left the shores of Britain, with difficulty able to effectuate its retreat to Corunna; and during their march from the 26th ult. to the 11th inst. in continual skirmish with the enemy. A battle upon the 16th. in which their gallant general was killed, and the second in command most severely wounded: an embarkation immediately after, under every disadvantage, that must, under such circumstances, attend the evacuation of the country. Is the nation, after all these events, to acquiesce in the pious resignation of Mr. Canning, who is satisfied to assign them all to the Supreme Disposer, without any examination of secondary causes, which must have led to such a disastrous termination of the campaign. Our home defence must shortly be the sole object, and we trust that the great council of the nation will not be so dilatory as the Central Junta of Spain, in taking the most effectual measures for the safety and UNION of these countries. “Ne quid detrimenti respublica capiat.”

IRELAND.

Twelve capital convictions at Limerick, and the arrival of Sir Arthur Wellesley at *Holy-head*, forms the summary of Irish history for the last month, and for such occurrences we know not whether to condole with, or to congratulate our country.

We gladly take this occasion of acknowledging an error we were led into in our last retrospect, by quoting an extract from an address to the king, as having come from the Presbyterian Synod of Ulster. That body, we are since assured, “did not address

the king last year, nor have they at any time addressed his Majesty in the language imputed to them.” We were led into the error by having copied the extract alluded to, from a respectable newspaper of this place, in which it had been published on the 5th of December, and although republished in several other papers, remained without contradiction or disavowal, until the 23d January. We were therefore led to believe the document authentic, and we fell in with the general deception on the subject. We are happy that such public disavowal has taken place, because even tacit acquiescence might be liable to misinterpretation, and because, from *whatever body* the address did come, there is now no danger of that body being confounded, either by inattention or design, on *either* side of the water, with the SYNOD of ULSTER.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

His Majesty, in virtue of the powers reserved to him by two certain Acts, passed in the 48th year of his Majesty's Reign, the one intituled “An Act for granting to his Majesty, until the end of the next Session of Parliament, Duties of Customs on the Goods, Wares and Merchandises therein enumerated, in furtherance of the provisions of certain Orders in Council;” the other intituled, “An Act for granting to his Majesty, until the end of the next Session of Parliament, certain Duties on the Exportation from Ireland of Goods, Wares, and Merchandises therein enumerated;” is pleased by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that, until further Orders shall be made herein, the operation of the aforesaid Acts be suspended as to any Duties on Exportation granted by the said Acts, so far as relates to Articles being the growth, produce, or manufacture of any country for the time being in amity with his Majesty, and from the ports of which the British flag is not excluded, which Articles have been or shall be imported direct from such Country into any port or place of the United Kingdom, either in British ships, or in ships of the country of which such articles are the growth, produce, or manufacture.

And his Majesty is further pleased, with the advice aforesaid, to order, and

it is hereby ordered, that the operation of the aforesaid Acts be, in like manner suspended, as to any Duties on the Exportation of Goods, Wares, or Merchandize which have been, or may be condemned as prize.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(Signed) W. FAWKENER.

SPAIN....CAPITULATION

Proposed by the Military and Civil Junta of Madrid, to his Imperial and Royal Majesty the Emperor of the French.

Art. 1.—The preservation of the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Religion, without any other being legally tolerated.

Answer—Granted.

Article 2.—The liberty and security of the lives and properties of the citizens and other persons in Madrid, as well as of those in public employments: the preservation of their situations, or the option of their retiring from this court, if they should prefer it. Likewise, the lives, privileges, and properties of the secular and regular ecclesiastics of both sexes, together with the respect due to the churches, all in conformity to our laws and customs.

Answer—Granted.

Article 3.—The lives and properties of all military officers of rank are likewise to be safe.

Answer—Granted.

Article 4.—No person shall be liable to persecution, on account of their political opinions or writings, any more than those employed in a public capacity, for what they may have done hitherto in the exercise of their employments, or in obedience to the former Government; nor shall the people suffer for the efforts which they have made for their defence.

Answer—Granted.

Article 5.—No other contributions shall be exacted beyond the ordinary ones that have hitherto been paid.

Answer—Granted till the realm shall definitely be organized.

Article 6.—Our laws, customs, and courts of justice shall be preserved in their present constitution.

Answer—Granted, until the kingdom undergoes its definitive organization.

Article 7.—The French troops and their officers shall not be quartered in private houses, but in military lodging houses

and tents, and by no means in convents or monasteries; the privileges allowed to the respective classes by the laws being preserved.

Answer—Granted, it being well understood that both the officers and privates must have quarters and tents that are furnished conformably to the military regulations, unless the said buildings be insufficient.

Article 8.—The troops shall march out of the town with the honours of war, and be at liberty to retire whithersoever they chuse.

Answer—The troops shall march out with the honours of war; they shall march off by files to-day at four o'clock in the afternoon, and leave their arms and cannon: the armed peasants shall also leave their arms and artillery; after which the inhabitants shall retire to their houses, and those from without the town to their villages.

All individuals that have enlisted among the troops of the line four months ago, shall be free from their engagements, and retire to their villages.

All the rest shall continue prisoners of war till an exchange takes place, which shall commence immediately between equal numbers, and rank for rank.

Article 9.—The public debts and engagements of the State shall be faithfully and constantly discharged.

Answer—This being a political object belongs to the cognizance of the assembly of the realm, and depends on the general administration.

Article 10.—Those Generals who wish to continue in the Capital, shall preserve their rank; and such as are desirous of quitting it, shall be at liberty so to do.

Answer—Granted; they shall remain in their station, although their pay can only continue till the kingdom receives its ultimate organization.

Additional eleventh article.

A detachment of guards shall this day, at four o'clock, take possession of the Palace gates. The different gates of the city shall, about the same time, be delivered up to the French army.

The guard-house of the body guards, and the general hospital, shall be surrendered to the French army at the same time.

At the same hour, the Park of Artillery and the Arsenal, together with the Engineers, shall be surrendered to the French Artillery and Engineers.

The works and entrenchments shall be levelled, and the streets repaired.

The French officer about to take the command of Madrid, shall, about mid-day repair, under a military guard, to the house of the Principal Governor in order to concert with Government, regulations of Police, and measures for the re-establishment of good order, and public security, in all parts of the town.

We the undersigned Commissioners, authorized by the full powers for settling and signing the present Capitulation, have agreed upon the faithful and entire execution of the above measures.

FERNANDO DE LA VERAY PANTOGA,
THOMAS DE MORLA,
ALEXANDRO.

*Imperial Camp at Madrid, the
4th of December, 1808.*

IMPERIAL DECREES.

NAPOLEON, EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH,
KING OF ITALY, AND PROTECTOR OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF THE RHINE.

"Considering that the troubles in Spain have been principally the effect of plots, carried on by several individuals, and that the greater part of those who joined in them have been either misled or deceived, wishing to pardon these, and to grant an amnesty for the crimes which they have committed against us, our Nation, and the King our Brother, wishing also to mark those who, after having sworn fidelity to the King, have violated that oath; who, after having accepted places, have only used the authority which was confided to them to betray their Sovereign, and who, instead of employing their influence to enlighten the citizens have only used it to mislead them; and wishing, lastly, that the punishment of great offenders may serve as an example in future times to all those, who, placed at the head of Nations, instead of directing the people with wisdom and prudence, mislead them, and lead them into disorders and popular agitations, and precipitate them into misfortunes and war.

"We have decreed as follows:

"1st. The Dukes of Infantado, of Híjar, of Medina Celi, and of Ossuna, the Marquis of Santa Cruz, the Counts of Fernan, Nunez, and Allamera, the Prince of Castel Franco, the Sieur Pierre Cevallos, Ex-Minister of State, and the Bishop of Santander, are declared Traitors to France and Spain, and Traitors to the two Crowns. As such their persons shall be seized and brought before a Military Commission and shot. Their property, moveable and immoveable, shall be confiscated in Spain, in France, in the Kingdom of Italy, in the Kingdom of

Naples, in the Papal States, in the Kingdom of Holland, and in all the countries occupied by the French Arms, to defray the expences of the war.

[The second Article renders null and void, all sales, or other dispositions of their property.]

The third grants, in the name of Joseph Bonaparte, a pardon to all Spaniards who, within one month after the arrival of Bonaparte at Madrid, shall lay down their arms, and renounce all adhesion to, and connexion with England.

Neither the Members of the Juntas, nor General Officers, who have carried arms, are excepted from this pardon, provided they surrender as before-mentioned.

FROM OUR CAMP AT MADRID, DEC. 4.

NAPOLEON, &c.

Considering that the Council of Castile has shown in the exercise of its functions as much falsehood as weakness, and that after having published throughout the kingdom the renunciation of Charles IV. and of the Princes Don Fernando, Don Carlos, Don Francisco, and Don Antonio of the Crown of Spain, and after having acknowledged and proclaimed our legitimate rights to the throne, it had the baseness to declare in the eyes of Europe and posterity, that it had signed these documents with secret and perfidious reservations. We decree as follows:

1. That the Members of the Council of Castile are displaced as being cowards, and unworthy of being the Magistrates of a brave and generous Nation.

By the second Article, however, such Members of the Council as did not sign the Deliberation of the 11th August are excepted from this Decree.

FROM OUR IMPERIAL CAMP BEFORE

MADRID, DEC. 4.

NAPOLEON, &c.

We decree as follows:

1. The Tribunal of the Inquisition is abolished, as incompatible with the Sovereign Power, and with the Civil Authority. 2. The property belonging to the Inquisition shall be sequestered and reunited to the domains of Spain to serve as a guarantee for the vales, and other effects of the public debt.

NAPOLEON, EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, &c.

Considering that the Religious of the different Monastic Orders in Spain are too much multiplied;

That if a certain number be useful to assist the Ministers of the Altar in the administration of the Sacraments, the

existence of too considerable a number is injurious to the prosperity of the State :

We decree as follows :

ART. 1. The number of Convents at present existing in Spain shall be reduced to a third.

This reduction shall be produced by uniting the Religious of several Convents in one single house.

2. Dating from the publication of the present Decree, no admission to the Noviciate, no religious profession shall be permitted until the number of the religious of each sex shall have been reduced to the third of the number of the old religious now existing.

In consequence, and in the space of a fortnight, all the Novices shall quit the Convents into which they have been admitted.

3. All the regular Ecclesiastics who wish to renounce their usual living, and to live as secular Ecclesiastics, shall be free to quit their houses.

4. The Religious who shall so renounce, conformably to the preceding article, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of a pension, whose amount shall be regulated by their age, but which shall not be less than 3000 reals, nor exceed the maximum of 4000.

5. Upon the amount of the property of the Convents which shall be suppressed in execution of the first article of the present Decree, shall be raised the sum necessary to increase the proportion of the Cures, so that the minimum of the salary of the Curates shall be raised to 2400 reals.

6. The property of the suppressed Convents, which shall be disposable after the raising of the sum ordered by the foregoing article, shall be united to the domain of Spain, and to be employed as follows ;

The half of the said property to guarantee the vales and other parts of the public debt.

PROCLAMATION BY BONAPARTE.

"SPANIARDS !—You have been misled by perfidious men. They have engaged you in a senseless struggle, and you have had recourse to arms. Is there one amongst you, who, after a moment's reflection upon all that has passed, would not be convinced that you have been the sport of the eternal enemies of the Continent, who take delight in witnessing the effusion of Spanish and French blood ?—What

possible result would attend even the success of some campaigns? An endless war upon your soil, and a tedious uncertainty respecting the fate of your properties and lives.

"Within the space of a few months, you have been delivered up to all the afflictions of popular factions. The defeat of your armies has been the work of some marches ; I have entered Madrid ; the rights of war would justify me in making a signal example, by washing away in blood the outrages offered to me and to my nation : but I have listened to the dictates of clemency only. Some men, the authors of all your calamities, shall alone be punished. I shall speedily drive from the Peninsula that English army which has been sent to Spain, not for the purpose of assistance to you, but to inspire you with a false confidence and to mislead you.

"I had declared to you in my Proclamation of the 2d of June, that I wished to be your Regenerator. To the rights which had been ceded to me by the Princes of the last dynasty, you wished that I should add the right of conquest. That shall not make any alteration in my intentions. I am even disposed to praise all that may be generous in your efforts ; I am willing to admit, that your real interests have been concealed from you, that the real state of things has been disguised from you.—Spaniards, your destiny is in your own hands. Reject the poisons which the English have spread amongst you :—let your King be assured of your affection and your confidence, and you will be more powerful and more happy than ever you have been. All that obstructed your prosperity and your grandeur, I have destroyed ; the chains which have borne down the people, I have broken ; a free Constitution gives you a limited and constitutional, instead of an absolute Monarchy. It depends upon yourselves whether this Constitution shall still continue in your land.

"But should all my efforts prove fruitless, and should you not merit my confidence, nothing remains for me but to treat you as conquered provinces, and to place my Brother upon another throne. I shall then place the Crown of Spain upon my own head, and cause it to be respected by the guilty ; for God

has given me power and inclination to surmount all obstacles.

"Given at our Imperial Camp at Madrid, Dec. 7, 1808.

(Signed)

"NAPOLÉON."

"By the Emperor. Minister Secretary of State, (Signed)

"H. B. MARET,"

The following is a copy of the address presented to his Majesty the Emperor, by the Corregidor of Madrid, in the name of the magistracy and citizens of that capital:

"Sire—The city of Madrid, represented by its magistrates, secular and regular clergy, nobility and deputies of the wards, presents itself at the feet of your Imperial Majesty, to offer you its most respectful thanks for the gracious clemency with which your Majesty, in the conquest which your victorious troops have made of this city, has been pleased to think of the safety and welfare of its inhabitants, and the praiseworthy and beneficent treatment which your Majesty has been pleased to show towards them, and which the city of Madrid considers as a pledge of forgiveness for all that has occurred in the absence of our King Joseph, your Majesty's brother.

"The several colleges constituting this assembly, duly deliberating on the subject of their meeting, have concluded and resolved to entreat your Imperial and Royal Majesty, that it may please you to grant them the favour of seeing King Joseph in Madrid, that all the places under its immediate jurisdiction, and the whole of Spain, may at length enjoy that tranquillity and happiness which they expect from the benevolence of his Majesty's character.

"Finally, Madrid flatters herself that she shall find protection in the power of your Imperial and Royal Majesty, at the same time that your clemency guarantees her happiness.

"Sire!—At the feet of your Imperial and Royal Majesty."

Madrid, Dec. 9, 1808."

To this address his Majesty returned the following answer:

"I am pleased with the sentiments of the city of Madrid. I regret the injuries she has suffered, and am particularly happy that, under existing circumstances, I have been able to effect her deliverance, and to protect her from great calamities.

"I have hastened to adopt measures calculated to tranquillize all ranks of the citizens, knowing how painful a state of

uncertainty is to all men, collectively and individually.

"I have preserved the spiritual orders, but with a limitation of the number of Monks. There is not a single intelligent person who is not of opinion that they were too numerous. Those of them who are influenced by a Divine call, shall remain in their cloisters. With regard to those whose call was doubtful, or influenced by temporal considerations, I have fixed their condition in the order of secular priests. Out of the surplus of the monastic property, I have abolished that court which was a subject of complaint to Europe and the present age. Priests may guide the minds of men, but must exercise no temporal or corporal jurisdiction over the citizens.

"I have accomplished what I owed to myself and my nation. Vengeance has had its due. It has fallen upon ten of the principal culprits; all the rest have entire and absolute forgiveness.

"I have abolished those privileges which the Grandes usurped during times of civil war, when kings but too frequently are necessitated to surrender their rights, to purchase their own tranquillity, and that of their people. I have abolished the feudal rights, and henceforth every one may set up inns, ovens, mills, employ himself in fishing and rabbit-hunting, and give free scope to his industry, provided he respects the laws and regulations of the police. The selfishness, wealth and prosperity of a small number of individuals, were more injurious to your agriculture than the heat of the dog-days.

"As there is but one GOD, so should there be in a state but one judicial power. All peculiar jurisdictions were usurpations, and at variance with the rights of the nation; I have abolished them.

"I have also made known to every one what he may have to fear, and what he may have to hope. I shall expel the English army from the Peninsula. Saragossa, Valencia, Seville, shall be reduced to submission, either by persuasion, or the power of my arms. There is no obstacle which can long resist the execution of my resolutions.

"But what transcends my power is this: to consolidate the Spaniards as one nation, under the sway of the King. Should they continue to be infected with these principles of aversion and hatred to France, which the partisans of the English and the enemies of the continent have infused into the bosom

of Spain; I can establish no nation, no King, no independence of the Spaniards, if the King be not assured of their attachment and fidelity.

"The Bourbons can no longer reign in Europe. The divisions in the Royal Family were contrived by the English. It was not the dethronement of King Charles, and the favourite (the Prince of the Peace) that the Duke of Infantado, that tool of England, as is proved by the papers found in his house, had in view. The intention was to establish the predominant influence of England in Spain; a senseless project, the result of which would have been a perpetual Continental war, that would have caused the shedding of torrents of blood. No power under the influence of England can exist on the Continent. If there be any that entertain such a wish, their wish is absurd, and will sooner or later occasion their fall.

"It would be easy for me, should I be compelled to adopt that measure, to govern Spain by establishing as many Viceroys in it as there are Provinces. Nevertheless, I do not refuse to abdicate my right of conquest in favour of the King and to establish him in Madrid, as soon as the 30,000 Citizens which this capital contains, the Clergy, Nobility, Merchants, and Lawyers, shall have declared their sentiments and their fidelity; set an example to the Provinces, enlightened the people, and made the nation sensible that their existence and prosperity essen-

tially depend upon a King and a free Constitution favourable to the people and hostile only to the egotism and haughty passions of the Grandees.

"If such be the sentiments of the inhabitants of Madrid, let the 30,000 citizens assemble in the churches; let them, in the presence of the holy Sacrament, take an oath, not only with their mouths, but also with their hearts, and without any jesuitical equivocation, that they promise support, attachment, and fidelity to their King; let the Priests in the confessional and the pulpit, the mercantile class in their correspondence, the men of the law in their writings and speeches, infuse these sentiments into the people:—then shall I surrender my right of conquest, place the King upon the throne, and make it my pleasing task to conduct myself as a true friend of the Spaniards. The present generation may differ in their opinions, the passions have been too much brought into action; but your grandchildren will bless me as your renovator: they will reckon the day when I appeared among you, among their memorable festivals; and from that will the happiness of Spain date its commencement.

"You are thus, Monsieur le Corregidor," added the Emperor, "informed of the whole of my determination. Consult with your fellow-citizens, and consider what part you will choose; but whatever it be, make your choice with sincerity, and tell me only your genuine sentiments."

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

HIBERNIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this Society was held at the Royal Exchange, on Monday the 14th Nov. 1808.—The Patron, his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, in the Chair. The Secretary read the report of the Committee for the last year, which was received, and is as follows: •

At the last annual meeting of your society, your committee was entrusted with the important commission of procuring suitable patronage for the institution. To the accomplishment of this primary object, they immediately applied themselves, by communicating the nature and designs of the society

to some of the first characters in Ireland, and soliciting their countenance and support. Your committee were highly gratified by the politeness and promptitude with which the most satisfactory answers were given to their communications; and could not but anticipate the most salutary result from the support of the noblemen and gentlemen who have come forward as patron, president and vice-presidents of the society.

"Your committee were convinced, that one extensive institution, pervading the whole country, having one grand fund, and acting on one plan, would contribute more to the general

circulation of the scriptures in Ireland, than the partial efforts of individuals, or even of local and isolated societies. Their attention was, therefore, directed to the extending of their institution, by the formation of branches of the society in such principal towns as their influence extended to; and though they have to regret, that, in some instances, their exertions have not been crowned with success, they have also the happiness of stating, that a second and highly respectable branch of the society has been established in Limerick, under the patronage of one of our vice-presidents, the Lord Bishop of that See. We have the pleasure of adding, that the efforts of your committee have given rise to a Bible Society in Cork, though not connected with us.

“In the course of the correspondence on these subjects, in which your committee was engaged, it was suggested that our former name, the ‘Dublin Bible Society,’ was of too local a nature; and that, as our exertions were to be bounded only by our country, it was expedient that our designation should be sufficiently general, to point out our sphere of action. In consequence of this suggestion, a general meeting was called, to which this subject was submitted; and by which our present denomination, the ‘Hibernian Bible Society,’ was unanimously adopted.

“The name of the society being thus changed, your committee published the report of the former year, with the names of the officers of the society, and a list of the subscribers. This publication has been extensively circulated, and not without effect in this, and the sister country. It has been the means of increasing the number of our members at home; and such was the favourable impression it made on the committee of the ‘British and Foreign Bible Society’ in London, that they presented us with the sum of £100 sterling, as a testimony of their good will, and for an encouragement to greater exertion in the good cause in which we both were engaged.

“Among the many instances of polite attention which your committee met with from several individuals, they cannot deny themselves the pleasure of

noticing the conduct of the venerable and highly respected president of the Royal Irish Academy: when a deputation of their body waited on him for permission to hold the committee meetings in the Academy-house, he received them with the greatest kindness, entered warmly with them into the views of the society, and cheerfully complied with their request.

“Your committee have derived the greatest satisfaction from the gentlemen who constitute the committee of the Belfast branch of the society; their co-operation with us has been most cordial and active; they have laboured assiduously to increase our general fund, and likewise to establish a local fund for the more extended circulation of the Scriptures in their immediate vicinity. The plan they have adopted for this latter purpose, is worthy of imitation: they addressed a circular letter to the ministers of religion, of every denomination in Belfast and its neighbourhood, stating the objects of their society, and requesting them to have a collection made in each of their places of worship, on a particular day, in aid of the institution.

“During the time your committee have been in office, they have had repeated proofs of the necessity and usefulness of this society. A very general desire to purchase and read the bible is prevalent in the country; and yet in several parts the bible cannot be procured, at least, by the lower classes. A letter from a clergyman in a very populous district of the north of Ireland, stated to your committee, that the bible could not be procured there for any money. From this circumstance the society may judge what must be the case in those parts of the land where the people are less instructed, and where books are still scarcer. Of the usefulness of the society, the best proof is the following statement of the books circulated during the last year, viz.

Bibles - - - -	2446
Testaments - -	2452
<hr/>	
Total - - - -	4898
Remain in the Repository:	
Bibles - - - -	1567
Testaments - -	1362
<hr/>	
Total - - - -	2929

"Encouraged by the notice which his Grace the Duke of Richmond has taken of the society, by condescending to become a benefactor to it, your committee have presented a memorial to his Excellency, praying permission to circulate our communications through the country, free of postage. To this memorial we have not yet received an answer, as it is necessary his Grace should consult the Postmasters General, previous to his communicating to us his final determination.

"Your committee shall now lay before the society the state of their funds, which they regret to observe, are not so flourishing as they could wish.

State of the funds :

Received during the last year 17 7
Expended do. - - - - - 855 10 11

Balance in Treasurer's hands 108 6 8

"They shall conclude by urging on each member of the society, the necessity of increased exertion in the best of causes—the improvement of our country in civilization and morals, and the increasing of the knowledge of salvation. Of all the countries of the earth, we are among the most favoured by Providence. While other lands are wasted by famine, or desolated by war, we are in the enjoyment of domestic peace and prosperity; and surely the least return we can make to the bountiful Author of these our blessings is, to diffuse among our countrymen, the knowledge of his gospel.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM....Married....At Lisburn, E. Pollock, of Carnbaue, esq. to Miss Agnes Smith, daughter of Wm. Smith, of Lisburn, esq. At Belfast, Mr. E. Kearney, late of Liverpool, to Miss Donnelly of this town. Mr. J. Bell to Miss Catherine Balla. Mr. Anderson of Movill, to Miss Patterson, daughter of Mr. Patterson of Ballysully. At Belfast, Mr. R. Blair, to Miss Cowan of Malone. Mr. N. M'Ilheran, to Miss Mary Hull, of Ballycastle. Mr. R. M'Allister, of Ballycastle, to Miss O'Neill, of Grinans. In Belfast, Mr. G. Montgomery, merchant, to Miss Campbell, daughter of J. Campbell, esq. Donegall-street.

Died....Mrs. Mary Graham, relict of the late Mr. J. Graham, of Belfast, merchant. At Duncroone, near Coleraine,

Mrs. Wilson, aged 53. In Belfast, suddenly. Mr. Andrew Mulholland, formerly of Moneymore. At Camu, near Toomebridge, Mr. Henry M'Gee. At Lisburn, aged 81, Mrs. Elinor Ravenhill. At Mr. S. Brown's, Townview Mrs. Barklie, wife to Mr. Archibald Barklie, of Inver, Larne. She had walked out there from Belfast, on the day of her death, and was about to return to prepare her dress for the assembly, the same evening, when she was suddenly taken ill, and notwithstanding medical advice was immediately called in, she died about 12 o'clock the same night. Suddenly, at her house, near Belfast, Miss Fleming. At Ballymacarret, Mr. Gilbert O'Prey aged 36. In Belfast, Mr. Thomas M'Donnell. On the 2d ult. at Ballymena, aged about 80 years, John Phillips, esq. late Colonel of a Regiment of loyal militia, in the State of South Carolina; which post he sustained, with much credit to himself and essential service to his King, during the whole of the war between this country and the States of America. Mr. Phillips left this kingdom about five years before the commencement of the war, and, having purchased a small estate in Crown County, the vicinity of Wynnborough, he had so much improved it, that when the result of the contention obliged him to abandon it, his loss was estimated at £20,000, for which, together with his services, he was only allowed £500, and an annual pension of £100, owing to the numerous claims made upon Government by American Loyalists at that time—So good a soldier and so forward in action was Colonel Phillips, that on one occasion he returned from the field of battle with six, and another time four musket balls through his hat; he having been the particular mark of the Provincial Riflemen.—Yet, so unexceptionable was the private character of the man, that when the dispute subsided, Congress restored 500 acres of his land to his relatives. At Randalstown, Miss Martha Adams. In Belfast, Mr. Robert Gihon.

ARMAGH....Married....At Lurgan, Mr. J. Ferguson, to Miss Jane Tuckington. At Broomfield, Mr. Francis Horner of Ballibay, merchant, to Catherine, daughter of Jacob Hancock, esq. of Lisburn.

DOWN—Married—At Newtonards, M. R. Chambers, to Miss F. A. Ferguson. At Morne, F. M'Neilly, esq. to Miss Walmsley. At Banbridge, Mr. D. M'Main to Miss M. M'William. At Newtonards, Mr. T. M'Cleery, to Miss Millar. At Newry, Mr. B. Coleman, to Miss A. J.

Bowden. W. Isaac Corry of Derramore co. Armagh, esq. to Miss Holmes, eldest daughter of James Holmes, esq. of Inver Lodge, co. Antrim. At Blaris, by the Rev. Dr. Cupples, Mr. C. Lutton, to Miss E. Carleton. At Ganaway, Mr. J. Taylor of Greyabbey, to Miss J. M'Clure of Ganaway.

Died... At Castlewellan, James Nicholson, esq. aged 68 years. At Dromore, Lieut P. Hall late of the 30th regiment of foot. At Cultra, Mr. W. Menage, aged 67 years. At Lurgan, Mr. W. Thompson, Linen-draper. At Carrreagh, near Hillsborough, Elizabeth M'Cann, wife to Mr. O. M'Cann. At Newry, Mr. A. Atkinson, aged 80.

FERMANAGH...*Married...* Capt. W. Stirling St. Clair, to Miss E. Gordon, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Gordon of Peltrum.

MONAGHAN...*Died...* At Ballybay, Mr. J. Gillespie, Attorney.

TYRONE...*Married...* James Denham, esq. to Miss Richardson, daughter of Sir W. Richardson, Bart. of Castle-hill.

LEINSTER.

At a meeting of the Provost and Senior Fellows, on Monday the 16th, for the purpose of electing a professor of Botany, in the room of the late Dr. Scott, Dr. Wm. Allman, of Clonmel, was declared duly elected.—The candidates were Dr. Allman, Dr. Wade, Dr. Orpen, Dr. Hart, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Litton, Dr. M'Laughlin, and Dr. Gamble.

CARLOW...*Married...* F.W. Hopkins, Esq. to Miss Catharine Eustace, 3rd daughter of Hardy Eustace, of Carlow, esq.

DUBLIN...*Married...* In North Ann-Street, T. Fitzpatrick, of Killisandra, esq. to Miss Eliza Grier of Drungoole. In St. George's-street, Thomas Vicars, of V-later, Co. Wicklow, esq. Barrister at Law, to Miss Francis Hart, daughter of the late Timothy Hart, of Kilkenny, esq. In New-row, Dr. Brady, to Miss Kelly. Verner Moore, esq. Barrister at Law, to Mrs. Sharp, Lower Gardiner's-street. At Rathmines, John Paisley, esq. to Miss Riekey. James Woodroffe, esq. merchant, to Elizabeth, second daughter of the Rev. Joseph Fairtlough, of Ballymakenny, near Drogheda. Patrick Madden, esq. to Miss Ann Reynolds, of Meath-street. Mr. Laurence Keogh, of Aston's quay, to Miss Strong, daughter of the late Francis Strong of Mayfield, co. Tipperary.

Died... In Fishamble-street, aged 80, Mr. I. Lucas, nephew to the late celebrated Doctor Lucas.

LONGFORD...*Married...* Mr. John Murdoch of Newtown Forbes, aged 89, to Miss Anne Farrell, aged 16, after a short courtship.

KING'S co.—*Died...* at his house at Newtown, Sir Michael Smith, Bart, late master of the Rolls, and for many years a Baron in the Exchequer—he is succeeded in his honours by his son Sir William Smith, Baron of the Exchequer. By this death a pension of 2700*l.* enjoyed by him, as a retired judge, ceases.

MUNSTER.

About the beginning of this Month, as Lionel Stephens, Esq. of Drominah, near Watertord, whose constant exertions to relieve the distresses of his poorer neighbours merit the highest praise, was performing one of those simple operations which do not require the aid of medical skill, he unfortunately cut his finger and inoculated himself with virulent matter from the sore he was endeavouring to heal. The effect was rapid and alarming. The hand and part of the arm swelled to a great size, and the most serious apprehensions were entertained for a considerable time of a general mortification. It will give the public pleasure to learn, that so benevolent an act has not been attended with such fatal consequences; and that Mr. Stephens is pronounced to be almost wholly out of danger. The progress of the distemper was, we understand, arrested by the application of circular blisters above the elbow, a practice recently adopted by professional Gentlemen, and likely to prove of importance and advantage.

Lately, several houses in Upper-third, county of Waterford, have been plundered of arms. About the beginning of this month, a large body of Caravats, about 60 in number, mounted and armed at so early an hour as five o'clock, passed over the bridge of Portlaw, and proceeded to the lands of Darghill, where they took away arms from several houses; some yeomanry pistols, guns, muskets, &c. How far they extended this night's depredations we have not been able to ascertain, but have been informed, that on their retreat, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Curraghmore, they were attacked by an armed party of men, when, upon some shots being fired, they dispersed, but not before some of their party were

supposed to have been wounded. Their appearance at so early an hour, must have been with the intention of surprising the country people whilst at supper, and before their doors would be barricaded for the night. The audacity of those proceeding is such as scarce to require a comment.

On Friday, the 20th, the following Noblemen and Gentlemen were admitted Privy Councillors:—The Earls of O'Neill, Clancarty, and Shannon; Lord H. Moore; Cols. Bagwell, Foster, Barry, and Vereker.

A whimsical instance of summary punishment has, a few days since, taken place in the parish of Mothill:—A party of Caravats broke into a farmer's house, declaring their determination to punish him for having taken a farm which had not been occupied before by his family. The unfortunate culprit excused himself by saying, he was prevailed upon by his wife to act thus against his conscience. "This is all well known to us. We shall inflict no punishment save on the guilty. For you, we consider you beneath our notice, as a wretch who would submit to a petticoat-government." The woman, being forced to put on her husband's breeches, was hoisted on the back of a sturdy Caravat, and whipped with a stirrup leather so severely, that she has not been able to sit down ever since.

ENGLISH.

A considerable quantity of silver coin, of Elizabeth, James, and Charles, was dug up last week on a farm called Lan, in the parish of Abernant, near Caermarthen. Tradition tells us, that an encampment stood on this spot, during part of Cromwell's Protectorship.

A mine of zinc ore has been discovered on Lord Ribblesdale's estate, in Craven, Yorkshire, where there were formerly copper mines. This ore has been used as a substitute for white lead in painting, the colour of which it attains by long exposure: it does not blister, is more adhesive, and is not decomposed by salt water. This mineral is found in strata at the bottom of caverns, about 8 fathoms from the surface, in some cases 6 feet thick: one of the caverns is 104 yards, another 84, and a third 40 yards in length, and about 14

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yards wide. His Lordship supposes this mineral has been sublimed by a volcano, as the stones surrounding it have been vitrified. About 2000 tons of it have been sold at from 5 to 10*l.* per ton, to make brass, when mixed with copper, exclusive of what has been used for painting.

The prisoners on the debtor's side of Newgate, London, to the number of 300, have sent a circular letter to every Member of the House of Parliament, supplicating their consideration, and indulging a hope that in the ensuing Session an enlightened Legislature would open the prison doors, and restore to the bosom of their country and families, the soldier, sailor, man of letters and mechanical ability, now sinking indiscriminately under the miseries of confinement, resulting from debts incurred in consequence of the necessities of the times, unforeseen misfortunes, implicit confidence, and other afflicting circumstances.

FOREIGN.

The following account of the final result of our Expedition to Spain, though beyond the date which we have prescribed for our political register is of too interesting a nature, to be withheld.

THE English army after a quick retreat, in which, though closely pursued by a French force much superior in number, they gained Corunna with but little comparative loss. They entered that town on the 12th of December, 1808. On the 16th, about one o'clock the enemy under the command of Marshall Soult, was observed to be in motion, and forming various columns of attack, which soon advanced in a rapid and determined manner against the right of the English army. Sir J. Moore who had previously suspected their design from their movements, was prepared to receive them. The first effort of the enemy was opposed by Sir J. Moore, Sir David Baird, and Lord Wm. Bentinck with the 42nd regiment who have already made themselves so illustrious by their conduct on former similar occasions. The action was bloody and well contested: in the beginning Sir D. Baird was forced to retire in consequence of a severe wound in the arm; and shortly after Sir J. Moore fell by a cannon shot. The troops though not unacquainted with the loss they had sustained, were not dismayed, but by the most determined bravery not only repelled every attempt but forced

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the enemy to retire although supported by fresh troops which poured in during the engagement.

Finding themselves foiled in every attempt to force the right, their efforts were directed against the centre, where they were again successfully resisted by the brigade under M. Gen. Manningsham, and M. Gen. Leith. Upon the left they first contented themselves with an attack upon our piquets which in general maintained their ground. Finding their efforts unavailing on the right and centre, the attack on the left was made more violent, and they even succeeded in obtaining possession of a village which was situated in front of that part of the line. From this however they were soon driven, and before five in the evening, our troops had not only successfully repelled every assault, but had gained ground in almost all points, while the enemy confined their operations to a cannonade with a view to draw off their troops.

At night the embarkation began, and with the exception of the brigade under M. Generals Hill and Beresford, who were to remain on shore until the movements of the enemy became manifest, the whole was embarked before day-light.

About 8 o'clock the next morning, the enemy pushed their light troops towards the town, and shortly after occupied the heights of St. Lucia, which command the harbour. But notwithstanding this circumstance, and the manifold defects of the place, there being no fear that the rear-guard could be forced; the embarkation of Majors General Hill and Beresford, took place during the evening, and the whole rear-guard, together with all the wounded that had not been previously embarked before one the next morning.

The brunt of the action chiefly fell upon the 4th, 42d, 50th, and 81st regiments, with part of the brigade of Guards and the 26th regiment. The number of killed and wounded has not been yet ascertained, but from General Hope's dispatches there is reason to think that the loss does not exceed from 7 to 800 in killed and wounded; that of the enemy may be conjectured at double that number. Several officers of rank are in this list; those whose names are yet known, are Lieut. Col. Napier, 92nd; Majors Napier and Stanhope, 50th; killed: Lieut. Col. Winch, 4th; Lieut. Col. Maxwell, 26th; Lieut. Col. Fane, 59th; Lieut. Griffith, Guards; Majors Miller and Williams; 81 wounded.

Interesting account of the destruction of a Royal Tiger, by one of the Officers of the 2d Bat. of the 7th Regiment

N. I. stationed at Kaira.—On the 15th June, some of the officers of the corps formed a party to visit the celebrated ruins of Mahmoodabad. On approaching them, they were alarmed by a sound like the roar of a Royal Tiger. They did not, however, immediately see the animal, and proceeded towards the ruins; but, on advancing a little further, he suddenly burst upon their view, in all his terrors, and sprang at them with indescribable ferocity. A precipitate retreat was the natural consequence, and one of the Gentlemen, who was but indifferently mounted, perceiving that he could not depend on his horse, with the promptitude of a vigorous and decisive mind, directed his course to a tree which he immediately ascended with his fowling-piece in his hand. His victim thus singled, the Tiger gave over the pursuit of the others, and bounded on the horse, who stood paralysed with fear at the foot of the tree. At this crisis, the Gentleman in the tree took a cool and steady aim at the savage, and wounded him, though not mortally. The Tiger feeling his wound, retreated to some distance, but almost immediately returned with increased fury. In the mean time, the Officer had reloaded, and taking aim at him again, while venting his rage on the miserable horse, wounded him mortally. On the first attack of the Tiger, the retreat of the party was too precipitate and general to admit of individual attentions. Each person trusted to the speed of his horse, and our hero was undesignedly left behind. But when, on rallying in a neighbouring village, his comrades perceived that he was missing, they instantly armed themselves and returned with a large concourse of the natives to the spot. They came in sight of the tree just as the Tiger had received his mortal wound. He again retreated, and was traced into a jungle, where they found him writhing in agony. On their approach, he collected his remaining strength into one final effort, and prepared to spring, but the spear of a native prevented him, and put an end to his struggles. On measuring him, he was found to extend ten feet eight inches from the nose to the tip of the tail. The poor horse was so mangled, that he was immediately put to death.

Bombay Gazette.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT,

FROM DECEMBER 30, 1808, TILL JANUARY 30, 1809.

THE weather, since last Report, having been in general either frosty or tempestuous, very little progress has been made in tillage, for the ensuing spring crops.

The early sown wheat in this Province, keeps up a promising appearance, whilst the late crops do not afford the farmer so agreeable a prospect.

Accounts from some parts of Leinster give a similar representation, and furnish fresh occasion for our recommending the practice of early sowing.

The prices of grain are rather advancing, Oats in particular has within the last four weeks experienced a considerable rise; and Oatmeal of course continues higher than has been usual at so early a period of the season.

Potatoes have also kept at a higher rate than there seemed any reason to expect, and there now remains very little ground for hoping that provisions will be as cheap as was at first expected.

The Turnip crops are consuming faster than usual, and will not bring the stock now feeding within a month, at least of the time they have generally been kept to—which will probably occasion a considerable scarcity of Beef in the markets in the months of April and May.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

ANOTHER month is elapsed, and our political and commercial prospects are involved in still deeper gloom. At the close of last month we were told not to despond, for America must rescind the embargo. This dream is gone by, and we are now told, that American produce will be smuggled over to us, and that we shall have flaxseed from that country by stealth, notwithstanding the additional regulations of America to enforce still more strictly the embargo; and that we shall have also abundant supplies from the ports of the Baltic, although in common years when there were no restrictions on the northern commerce, the quantity from Russia and Holland did not amount to one-fourth of the flaxseed sown in Ireland. We seem now likely to repeat in our commerce, the fatal errors into which we have fallen in our politics. Such has been the current of events in the war-system, that at the end of every year, as favourable terms of peace could not have been procured as at the beginning, and yet the people have been buoyed up by one false hope or another. Each in its turn has proved equally delusive, yet still when one bubble burst, the next flattering scheme has met with equally ready acceptance, although the whisperings of sound policy and true wisdom, have been in the language of the poet:

"But do not thou the tale believe,

"They're sisters all, and all deceive."

After the unsuccessful termination of the attempt at Armagh, to rouse those interested in the linen trade, to consider the alarming situation of this country from the probable defective supply of flaxseed for the ensuing spring, some of the minority, whose fears were not at all lessened by any reasonings which they heard from the opponents of publicly petitioning, willing to leave no measure unattempted by which the case might engage the consideration of Parliament, have published "*Considerations*" on the subject (which we annex) and sent them to many members of both Houses; and have written to London to interest those concerned in the trade there, to engage in the further distribution of them. If this publication answer no other purpose, it may serve as a PROTEST against the proceedings at Armagh, and be a memorial of the exertions used to avert the impending danger.

Considerations on the State of the Linen-trade of Ireland, in case Flaxseed, in sufficient quantities, does not arrive for sowing in the Spring of 1809, respectfully submitted to the Members of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament:

"Owing to the embargo, little flaxseed was received from America last year, except some which left that country before the embargo was laid on.

"Much less flaxseed was sown last year than usual; and owing to the wetness of the Summer, of what was sown, the crop was deficient, both in quantity and quality, so that there was not more than one-half or one-third of the usual quantity of flax.

"Flax is now very considerably advanced in price, in consequence of this deficiency, and by reason of the increasing demand from Great Britain, on account of the failure in the usual supply of that article from the ports of the Baltic, and must still rise higher, in case we are disappointed of an abundant supply of flaxseed for the ensuing season of sowing. The present price of flax is more than double what it was nine months ago.

"By a return to the Linen Board, there appear to be only 6,000 hogsheads of last year's importation fit for sowing, now in Ireland. The usual annual supply from Holland, Riga, &c. in case of no interruption, does not exceed 10,000 hogsheads, and the quantity usually sown in Ireland, amounts to 45,000 hogsheads. Thirty-five thousand hogsheads were usually imported from the United States of North America.

"If in consequence of the embargo, that supply be cut off from coming to Ireland, the situation of the Linen trade of this country, must, in the course of the ensuing Summer, be critical in the extreme; a stop must be put to the manufacture, and upwards of half a million of industrious inhabitants thrown out of employment.

"These alarming considerations are submitted to Members of Parliament, in the hopes of inducing them to consider of the impolicy of retaining the Orders in Council, and that measures may be taken, before it be too late for vessels to arrive in time from America, in the Spring, to induce America to rescind the embargo.

"Flaxseed received later than the beginning of May, at the very farthest, would be too late to afford relief for this year.

"The distresses consequent on such a state, and the dangers arising from so great a part of the most industrious portion of the population of Ireland being thrown idle, demand the most serious attention.

"THOS. PHELPS.

"JOHN HANCOCK.

"JAMES CHRISTY.

"WILLIAM DAWSON."

It may be further remarked, as a proof of the little expectation in America of getting off the flaxseed, that in the port of Philadelphia, from several vessels having that article on board, the shippers have re-landed it, and sold it at a very considerable loss. In other instances where it was insured, the owners have abandoned it to be sold on account of the underwriters. We find, that notwithstanding the violence of the federal prints in America, the measures of the Jefferson administration, of which the embargo is a prominent feature, are now likely to receive the sanction of the majority of American citizens, as evidenced by the probable issue of the election for the presidency in favour of James Madison, who is known to be a promoter of the same system, that the present president has pursued.

The Linens lately purchased on speculation in Belfast, Dublin, and London, are said not to sell readily. The rise was so rapid, as to alarm the retail traders, as well as the purchasers for private consumption, and they generally hold off. The spirit of speculation, it may with propriety be termed a species of gambling, which the present fluctuating state of commerce, by diverting capital from its accustomed channels, has introduced into almost every trade and manufacture, cannot be considered as favourable to good morals, for by introducing, to so great a degree, the spirit of adventure; subjecting to great losses, and holding out the prospects of great gain, trade and traders are thrown into such a state of uncertainty, that consequences destructive to a system of sound morality may be reasonably dreaded, as well from sudden accumulations, as from the heavy losses arising from unsuccessful enterprise.

If the sudden advance on many articles of prime necessity, occasioned by our commercial war-system, affected only the successful adventurers in the present lottery of speculation, the inconvenience would not be so much to be deplored; but the unambitious trader, who is contented to hold on quietly in the even tenor of his way, the middling and poorer classes of society sensibly feel the pressure of the times in the advance of most of the necessities of life, as soap, candles, timber, and even the important article of flour. For immediately on the account of the confirmation of the embargo being continued, having arrived at Liverpool, wheat and flour advanced in price, in consequence of the prospect of supplies of those articles from America, as well as from the North of Europe, being cut off; and flour has since risen with us, by reason of the advance in the English market. Thus, in another way, we feel the effects of the embargo operating indirectly against us.

It is asserted on good authority, that the distresses of the weavers at Manchester are as

great now, as they were during the last summer. Despair seems to have entered their dwellings, as all they can spare is sold, and all they can dispense with for a season is pawned; never, it is feared, to be redeemed. Such are the trophies of war.

Exchange on London has fallen in Belfast, during this month, to 5 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. while Discount on bank notes has risen to 3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. These rates evince the decreasing quantity of guineas in circulation: but when the new banks open, and the bills falling due in Belfast become payable generally in notes, the demand for gold will probably nearly cease. It is impossible to foresee the ultimate effects which this general disuse of gold, as a circulating medium, will produce; but, in the mean time, trade will be relieved from a heavy burden, and from the inconveniences and perplexities arising from two media of different values. One fact is obvious, that the small quantity of guineas, in circulation among us for several years past, subjected us to all the inconveniences of a defective supply, and gave no security against the dangers which some apprehend from their disuse. The Acts which suspended the cash payments at the national banks of England and Ireland, settled the point for the Empire at large. We, in one corner, could not struggle with any effect against the general current.

MEDICAL REPORT.

*List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from
December 20, 1808, till January 20, 1809.*

Barometer.....highest	- - - 29 50	Thermometer.....highest	- - - - 41 0
lowest	- - - 28 40	lowest	- - - - 34 30
mean	- - - 29 10	mean	- - - - 33 30
<i>Synochus</i> , - - - - -	2	Of a mixed nature between inflammatory and typhus fe- [ver.	
<i>Typhus mitior</i> , - - - -	2	Nervous, or common contagious fever,	
..... <i>gravior</i> , - - - -	1	Putrid fever.	
<i>Pneumonia</i> , - - - - -	1	Pleurisy.	
<i>Ophthalmia</i> - - - - -	3	Inflammation of the eyes.	
<i>Perniones</i> , - - - - -	4	Blisters, or chilblains.	
<i>Arthrodynia</i> , - - - - -	3	Chronic rheumatism.	
<i>Piora</i> , - - - - -	4	Itch.	
<i>Herpes</i> , - - - - -	3	Ringworm, or tetter.	
<i>Phthisis Pulmonalis</i> , -	1	Consumption of the lungs.	
<i>Asthma</i> , - - - - -	2	Asthma.	
<i>Catarrhus</i> , - - - - -	5	Catarrh, or common cold.	
<i>Scarlatina</i> , - - - - -	1	Scarlet fever,	
<i>Rubeola</i> - - - - -	1	Measles,	
<i>Scrophula</i> , - - - - -	2	Etil.	
<i>Dysuria Mucosa</i> , - - -	1	Gravel.	
<i>Hæmorrhoids</i> - - - - -	2	Piles,	
<i>Gonorrhœa</i> , } - - - -	5	Venereal disease.	
<i>Syphitis</i> , - } - - - -			
<i>Morbi infantiles</i> , - - -	19	Febrile and bowel complaints of Children.	

The only medical occurrences worthy of being noticed since our last report, are as follows: 1st, a curious disease of the skin, in which the roots of the hairs were elevated so as to resemble the rough side of a grater, or what is termed *goose skin*. There was a considerable imperfection in the sense of feeling, owing, perhaps, to the diminished surface, to which objects could be applied, or perhaps, to a morbid sensibility in the parts, as there appeared to be a small pustule surrounding the root of every hair, when viewed with a convex lens. Antimony, mercury, and all the various internal remedies usually prescribed in cutaneous diseases were tried without any good effect, and it seems at present to be giving way to topical applications of a stimulating nature: the result shall be given in our next report.

2d. A child was inoculated with vaccine virus, and on the day following was attacked with fever, accompanied with sore throat, which ultimately proved to be scarlet fever. During its progress there appeared a very small vesicle in each arm, where the virus was introduced, and on the sixteenth day from its introduction,

both pustules had the appearance that usually characterizes the disease on the eighth day.

3d. By a late regulation of the University of Edinburgh, the fees of each class are raised from three to five guineas, and the fee of graduation, from thirteen to twenty-six guineas; this will tend in some degree to promote the reform in the medical profession, so lately, but ineffectually proposed by Doctor Harrison, of Lincolnshire. The students have had meetings for the purpose of petitioning the *Senatus Academicus* for its repeal, but it is not likely they will be successful.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From December 20, till January 20.

While rugged rocks refuse the opening flower,
Nor even a moss beguiles the tedious hour. SMITH.

The whole period since the last Report has been so uncommonly severe, and such continual falls of snow have covered the country, in the neighbourhood of Belfast, that our remarks are confined to Zoology alone.

The immense flocks of Fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*) and Redwings (*I. iliacus* which we mentioned in one of our former numbers as having arrived unusually early, have all disappeared; several rare birds have however made their appearance as the Golden Plover (*Charadrius Pluvialis*) Grey Plover (*Tringa squaterola*) Turnstone (*Tringa Interpres*) Dun Diver (*Mergus Castor*.)

On the 31st December a large flock of Wild Swans (*Anas Cygnus*) were flying to the West emitting by times a sound not unmusical, when combined with the noise of their wings; but certainly not meriting the high encomiums which they have had conferred on them by the ancient poets, every allowance being made for the different state of musical composition. To say that this flight of Swans indicated the severe snow storm which followed on the 5th of January, a number of observations would be necessary.

On the 12th of January some of the White fronted Wild Goose (*Anas albifrons*) shot in the neighbourhood, were in Belfast Market.

Dec. 31. A mild day. Common Wren singing.

Jan. 9. Common Wren singing.

13. Common Wren and Wood-lark singing.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From December 20, till January 20.

----- the languid sun,
Faint from the west emits his evening ray,
Earth's universal face, deep hid, and chill,
Is one wide dazzling waste, that buries wide
The works of Man THOMSON.

Such a uniformly severe state of weather is seldom known in this country: few days have passed without snow, and on the 5th and 6th of January so much fell as nothing was like it since February 1799. On the roads it was accumulated to the depth of 10 or 12 feet, rendering them impassable to the mail coach for some days.

Decm. 21st Thaw apparently commenced, a trifling shower.
22, Clouds beautifully tinged, hard frost.
23, 24, 25, 26, . . . Dark morning, snow showers.
27, 28, 29, Dark calm warmish day.
30, 31, Calm wet days.
January 1st Cold dark day with a slight shower.
2, 3, Sleet showers, mountain tops white.

- 4, Small hail falling through the day.
 5, Stormy night with snow which was driven into great wreaths.
 6, 7, Thaw with small rain.
 8, 9, Pleasant calm clear day.
 10, Rain during the night, pleasant calm day.
 11, 12, 13, Pleasant dark day.
 14, 15, 16, Cold dark days.
 17, Thawing, clear day.
 18, Pleasant, bright, frosty day.
 19, Dark day with a trifling fall of snow in the afternoon.
 20, Pleasant clear day.

The variations of the Barometer have been uncommonly small, on the 7th and 8th of January it was 28, on the 16th and 17th at 30, all the rest of the time it was at 29.

The Thermometer has had also little variation; on the 22nd of December in the morning it was 29, on the 20th of January 28, on December the 29th and 30th it was 40, the 31st 41, the rest of the time it varied little above 32.

The wind was in the Northern points 6 times, Southern 7, Eastern 15, Western once.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA,

FOR FEBRUARY, 1809.

On the First, the Moon rises at 47 min. past 6 in the evening, being then very near Regulus, the bright star in the Lion; as she mounts the heavens we shall see that she has passed the line between the first of Hydra and the first of the Lion; and at 9, when she is $39^{\circ} 27'$ from Pollux in the Twins, and $52^{\circ} 42'$ from Spica in the Virgin, we may notice her peculiar situation in the eastern hemisphere; she is east of the line between the first of Hydra and the 1st, 3d, and 6th, of the Lion, and the 3d and 4th, of the Greater Bear. She sets about 8 the next morning.

Fifth, She rises at 53 min. past 11, being then near Spica in the Virgin and Mars, and forms with them a very pleasing object, during the night. She passes the star at about half past 5 in the afternoon—at 9 she is $43^{\circ} 50'$ from Antares, and $56^{\circ} 10'$ from Regulus.

Tenth, She rises at 34 min. past 4 in the morning, and is then a considerable distance from Saturn, which will be observed to be increasing. On this day she passes the meridian at 32 min. past 8, A. M.

Fifteenth, The thin crescent of the Moon may be seen this evening, by any person who has a good view of the horizon at W. S. W. in a line almost with Mercury, and the 4 small stars in the Water-pot. The Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter, all appearing in the western hemisphere, will, no doubt, excite much admiration even in the least attentive observers. She sets at 35 min. past 6, P. M.

Twentieth, She rises at 19 min. past 9, A. M. and passes the meridian at 49 min. past 4, P. M. she is now at a considerable distance from Venus. She is in a conspicuous situation between the 3 first stars of the Ram, the Pleiades, and Menkar, with the small stars in the head of the Whale. Before Mercury sets, it will be delightful to observe the groupe formed by him, Jupiter, Venus, the stars in the Ram, the Whale, the Moon, the Pleiades, and Aldebaran, near the meridian.

Twenty-fifth, The Moon rises about 1 o'clock, P. M. and passes the meridian at 49 min. past 8, at this time Venus is sufficiently high above the horizon to be seen. Under the Moon are the 3d of the Twins to the west, and the first of the Little Dog to the east of the meridian, above her to the east are the 2 first of the Twins.

Sirius is now near her, but West of the meridian, at 6 she is $44^{\circ} 19'$ from Regulus, and $35^{\circ} 51'$ from Aldebaran.

Twenty-eighth, She rises at 26 min. past 4. P. M. and passes the meridian at 18 min. past 11, Regulus being above her to the east of the meridian, and Mars and Spica above the horizon, south east by east.—At 6 she is $59^{\circ} 14'$ from Spica, and $74^{\circ} 25'$ from Aldebaran, and at 9 she is $76^{\circ} 5'$ from the latter, and $57^{\circ} 33'$ from the former.

Mercury is an evening Star during the whole of this month, and in the middle of it is so long above the horizon after Sun set, that any person may, if the evenings are fine, become acquainted with this planet. He is at his greatest elongation on the 17th, on which day he will not set for nearly an hour and three quarters after the sun. His motion is direct until the 24th, when he is stationary, during the remainder of the month he is retrograde.

Venus is an evening Star during this month, and has a direct motion—on the 1st she is distant from Jupiter only $5\frac{1}{4}$ deg. but her distance is continually encreasing, and as she is high above the horizon for a considerable time after Sun set, we may have every opportunity that we could desire, if the evenings are clear, of observing her appearance and motion.

Mars is visible in the night during this month, on the 1st he rises about 11 at night, and on the 25th about 10 min. before 10—his motion is direct, through nearly $4^{\circ} 30'$.—The Moon passes him on the 5th.

Jupiter is an evening Star, and on the 1st is about $5^{\circ} 30'$ from Venus,—his motion is direct and as he moves slowly, and Venus advances speedily, the distance between them will appear every night to be rapidly encreasing; but as Venus retreats from, Mercury approaches to him.—The Moon passes him on the 16th.

Saturn is a morning Star, being in the meridian on the 1st at 24 min. past 7 and on the 25th at 55 min. past 5 P. M. his motion is direct—he is in a conspicuous situation, to the east of the Scorpion, and forming with Antares a pleasing object to the early traveller.

Herschell rises before midnight on the 1st, and passes the meridian on the 1st at 50 min. past 5 in the morning and on the 22d at 32 min. past 4.—On the 13th he is stationary so that his motion this month is scarcely perceptible. The 1st Star of the Balance, called Zubeneschamali, is a sufficient direction to him, from this Star he is distant about $2\frac{1}{4}$ deg. being to the West of it; the Moon passes him on the morning of the 7th, being then very near him.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.				4th SATELLITE.			
Emissions.				Emissions.											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	4	35	24	1	12	45	42	5	11	21	4 Im.	17	6	49	40 Im.
3	23	4	20	5	2	3	38	5	14	14	29 E.	17	9	37	33 E.
5	17	33	9	8	15	21	35	12	15	24	23 Im.				
7	12	2	5	12	4	39	35	12	18	16	44 E.				
9	6	30	54	15	17	57	32	19	19	26	52 Im.				
11	0	59	48	19	7	15	35	19	22	18	8 E.				
12	19	28	36												
14	13	57	30												
16	8	26	17												
18	2	55	9												
19	21	23	56												

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Lydia's Communication has been unintentionally delayed, but will appear in our next.....Several others are received and under consideration.....We regret that a disappointment has prevented the review of Mr. Trotter's Letter on the Veto from appearing in the present number.

Dr. Neilson's Irish Grammar has been received and will, as well as Mr. Trotter's book, be noticed in our next number.

ERRATA.

Vol. 1, No. 3, page 242, line 4, from the bottom, for *Stairs* read *Stares*. No. 5, p. 398, l. 28 from the bottom, for *l Febrile*, &c. read 21. Same page l. 23, after *chillblain*, insert the words, *both of*, and dele them in the following line. Vol 2, No. 6, p. 1, col. 2, l. 16, from the bottom, for *Pyrauces*, read *Pyrances*. P. 54, l. 4, for *choires* read *chronies*.

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 7.]

FEBRUARY 28, 1809.

[Vol. 2.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SINCE a knowledge of the method of ascertaining the Specific Gravity of bodies, is attended with so many and great advantages to the chymist, merchant, agriculturist and miner, I trust any attempts which may tend to simplify that process, and render it more generally known, will not be unacceptable to many of your readers.

Specific Gravity expresses the weight of any particular kind of matter, as compared with that of the same bulk of some other body of which the weight is supposed to be already known; pure or distilled water being easily procured, its temperature regulated with facility, and being then a fluid of uniform density, seems the least exceptionable for a standard of comparison, and is therefore generally used for that purpose; but as its weight varies with its temperature, that is usually taken at 60 degrees of Farenheit's thermometer.

To compare the bulk of fluids and observe the difference in their weight, is comparatively easy and simple; a small bottle may be filled with the fluid we wish to examine, and its weight compared with that of the same bulk of water. Thus, if a small flask hold 1000 grains of pure water, it will contain 1850 of oil of vitriol (sulphuric acid) and only 815 of spirit of wine (alcohol.)

But to compare the weight of an irregular solid, with that of its bulk of a standard fluid, is a more difficult problem, and was considered impossible, previous to the discovery of the illustrious, but unfortunate Archimedes, who ascertained on the principles of hydrostatics, that a lighter, and less valuable metal had been substituted for part of the gold in King Hiero's crown; a discovery to which he was led, by observing the ascent

of the water on the sides of the bath, when he immersed himself in it.

When a solid is immersed in a fluid, it is plain, that the former displaces its own bulk of the latter; now the weight of the portion of fluid displaced, may be known by observing the loss of weight, sustained by the solid on immersion, and this gives also a very easy method of taking the specific gravity of liquids; thus, if a body weigh 50 grains in air, and only 40 in water, the bulk of that body of water, weighs 10 grains (the difference) which 10 grains if made a divisor, and the 50 grains or weight in air a dividend, the quotient 5 will be the specific gravity of that body; or in other words a cubic inch (or any given measure) of the solid, compared in weight, with the fluid, stands in the proportion of 5 to 1. The relative weight of grain, sand, ore, powders, or soil of any kind, may be also ascertained in the following easy manner; take a small phial capable of holding a known quantity of water, and introduce into it, equal parts of sand (for example) and water; this may be done by pouring water into the vessel, till it be half full, and then adding as much sand, as will make the water rise in the bottle so as to fill it, the difference between the weight of the water and sand, will give the result; thus if the phial contains 100 grains of pure water, and gains 50 grains by having the half of that water displaced, by an equal bulk of sand, it is evident, that the weight of the sand will be to that of water, as 2 to 1. Salts may be weighed in the same manner, in some fluid, in which they are not soluble, such as oil of turpentine, or naphtha.

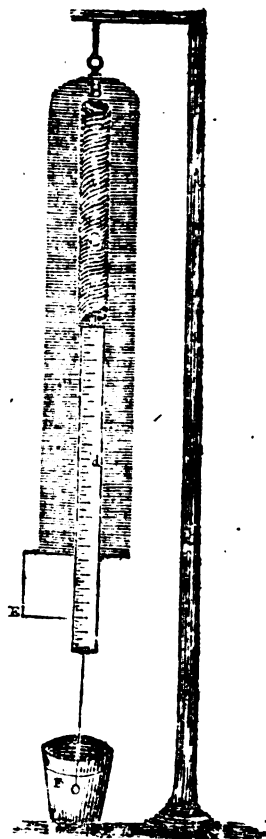
If therefore there be a variety of substances, the respective value of which are in any ratio, whether inverse, or direct, connected with their weight,

by this simple procedure, we discover their comparative goodness. The purity of various medicines, may be in this manner determined, so that this rule is evidently of infinite use in pharmacy; yet where is the Pharmacopologist, who understands, or uses an hydrostatic balance? The value of bell-rilla, kelp, pot, and pearl ashes, (so closely connected with our staple manufactures) may be readily found in this way, as well as the value of oil of vitriol, which is at present prepared by the rules of commerce, of a particular standard strength; so that if a person purchase it below the standard specific gravity, he may return it to the manufacturer, or deduct a sum from its price, equivalent to its want of weight.

In agriculture there can be no doubt of the universal and important application of this rule, not only in ascertaining the comparative value of different samples of the same kinds of grain, roots, &c. but also that of lime, marle, and some other manures; thus if pure lime be of greater value, than any admixture of that earth with clay, sand, iron, &c. the nearer the stone which we use approaches to the specific gravity of pure carbonate of lime (chalk, marble, or good lime-stone) the greater will be the price, at which the farmer can afford to purchase it. No doubt the fertility and composition of different soils, could also be investigated in this way, but this view of the subject has not yet I believe been proposed or practised; at least, not in this country.

In mining and mineralogy the rule being universally admitted, and applied, I think I need not exemplify its use; suffice it to say, that in the *British Mineralogy*, now publishing with so much credit, and expense, by Sowerby, the generic characters of all the fossils, are traced to their specific gravities: to this extraordinary work I may refer the reader for the best account of the specific gravity of British minerals; even the comparative value of different species of coal, may, I conceive, be readily ascertained by finding their specific gravity, which if simplified according

to the following method, may be easily applied by any careful domestic.



The method of weighing the body to be examined, has I think been hitherto rather objectionable, for from the length of time necessary in adjusting the weights, or the balance, the result of the process, will be often inaccurate, when the body immersed in the water imbibes that fluid, or is partially soluble or diffusible in it; a consideration of this, and of the difficulty, expense and loss of time attending a method so tedious, and operose, induced me to form the instrument represented in the plate, contrived like the pocket-steel-yard (or ounce) on the principle of the spring, but that so delicate, as to be sensible to the weight of one fourth

of a grain. It is used in the following manner. The body to be weighed, is suspended by a fine gold wire or common hair, to the graduated slide, *d*, attached to the spiral wire or spring *C*. The slide is immediately drawn down, so as to show the number of grains opposite the point of the index *E*. This being the weight under the pressure of the atmosphere is noted, the body *O*, still suspended at the slide is then plunged into a proper vessel *F*, filled with the standard fluid, part of the weight being thus taken off, the spring retracts and shows in an instant the loss of weight.

For taking the specific gravity of fluids this instrument is also very convenient; a piece of glass, of known weight, suspended at the spring, and immersed in the liquor, shows instantly the proportion of weight, one fluid bears to another. Now as the strength of spirits, and various commodities increases inversely as their weight, I would beg leave to recommend this mode of examining them, to the attention of the spirit-merchant, and the public in general; not from any desire of ostentation, but from the conviction of proposing a simple, cheap, and speedy method which any one may easily understand, and improve. This instrument so plainly adapted to all those purposes, may be constructed for a few shillings; the principal point is to use a spiral wire, or spring, of a determinate kind, the diameter, weight, and elasticity of which shall be uniform.

J. MURRAY, Surgeon.

Church-street, Jan. 26, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON ORIGINALITY OF THINKING; AND THE FASHIONABLE CHANGES OF PUBLIC OPINION.

IF fashion confined its influence to the cut of a coat, the size of a hat, or the variations of female dress, it might often be preposterous without producing much injury; but when it attempts to control opinions, and form them to one model, in such instances, its "idle sway" should be resisted. Originality of thinking, or independence of judgment is a

rare qualification: so rare indeed, that some have attempted to libel human nature, by asserting that the multitude are incapable of forming deliberate opinions, and only fitted to follow in the train of a few, who are privileged to think for them. The people have brought this opprobrium on themselves, because by not exerting this privilege of forming a deliberate judgment they appear to superficial observers, who argue from the disuse against the existence of this faculty, as if they did not actually possess the power, or the right of private judgment. They too implicitly follow a few leaders of public opinion, and receive the *tone* from them, while if the capability of such directors who take the lead were critically examined, their qualifications might justly be called in question. At the era of the reformation, Lutheranism was fashionable in one place and Calvinism in another, while the old fashion continued to prevail in other places, and thus the perception of truth might be supposed to be influenced by geographical circles. We cannot suppose if the people had individually examined for themselves, that opinions would be so generally embraced, as if they were nationally decided on. The influence of sects over their respective adherents may also be adduced to prove the force of fashion over opinion. Most remain in the profession in which they were educated, without confirming their assent by future examination, or expressing their dissent by separating from what their matured opinions may lead them to think erroneous. The exercise of private judgment too often lies dormant.

I am not an old man, and yet I have known many fluctuations of public opinion. My first acquaintance with public life commenced during the American war. I well remember the agitated politics of those days, and the two rival modes of thinking then in vogue. In Ireland this was the grand era of volunteer associations. The accents of patriotism were then fashionable, but that these sentiments were in compliance with the mode, and not in the million, the result of

conviction appears evident from the changes which took place in many soon afterwards, which changes were in all probability not more founded on conviction. Some of the patriots of those days were hurried on to overstep the bounds of rational and moderate reform, and were overwhelmed in the vortex of a fashion of one kind, which proved alike destructive to them and to their schemes. An antagonist fashion arose, in which many of these *ci-devant* reformers joined, and deserted their former fashion with great indifference, proving that

“Changing a master's like changing a glove;”

and this counter current, or re-action of public opinion is now the prevailing mode, and we find many, who, while followers of the former fashion were loud brawlers in favour of liberty, have now become the suppliant tools of any, and every administration, who happen from whatever accidental causes to have power for the time being in their hands. Could these changes have happened so very speedily, or could conversion have been so instantaneously affected, if the opinions of these men, as well their former as their present ones, both in direct opposition to each other, had been the result of deliberate inquiry?

A few have preserved “the noiseless tenor of their way,” neither giving up the cause of reform, because excesses have been committed under its name, nor attempting to enforce measures right in themselves by the improper use of force, or to coerce others to adopt their measures; but who seek to promote “virtuous ends only by virtuous means.” These are, however, an unfashionable sect, and despised by the leaders of the present fashions, who, when they condescend to speak of them represent them as incendiaries and promoters of discord, though on a just appreciation of their views, those moderate reformers are the best friends to tranquillity, because they wish to promote amelioration and consequent content, and are restrained from using force, as their leading principle is, that all force operates against reform, by pro-

ducing a re-action which counteracts it. Persuasion and attempts gradually to enlighten are the only weapons such reformers can use, consistently with their own principles.

The periodical prints have a very great influence in leading public opinion. They often artfully contrive to inflame prejudices, by stating what they think will be agreeable to their readers, and thus increase the sale of their papers; and avoid the publication of blunt unpleasant truths, lest their pecuniary interests should suffer. Many readers take upon trust what they thus are accustomed to see daily; and insensibly form their taste accordingly. By acting in this manner they save themselves from “the unsupportable fatigue of thought,” and implicitly receive the manufactured sentiments, which they find ready made up to their hand. This is one powerful instrument of leading the public taste, and we find the sentiments of a majority of readers are influenced by the tone of the periodical prints, which they are in the habit of reading:

“Gutta cavat lapidem, non vi, sed sæpe cadendo:”

It is the frequent reiteration of the drop, not the force, which at length wears the stone.

The prevailing fashion of the present day is to promote the war system, and if we may judge of the future from the past, the consequences of this direction of public opinion is likely to prove ruinous to our best interests. Many are interested in the continuance of war by the emoluments which they or their relatives draw from it. Contractors, fathers and brothers of military and naval officers abound every where, these naturally wish for the continuance of the sources whence they draw their profit, and *self-denial* is so unfashionable an accomplishment that few are found to prefer public advantage to private gain. These numerous classes are sufficient to give a direction to public opinion especially when the bulk of the people will not be at the pains to scrutinize the dictates of fashionable opinion. Hence arises the notion that this war differs from all former wars, and that such is the ambition and despotism of Bonaparte.

parte, that no solid peace can be made with him; so that the reprobaters of other wars affect to consider the warfare in which these countries are now engaged as of a peculiar and distinct nature. The present bishop of London (Porteus) some years ago stigmatized war in the following just and appropriate terms:

..... "One murder made a villain;
Millions a hero. Princes were privileged
To kill, and numbers sanctified the crime.
Ah! why will kings forget that they are
men?
And men that they are brethren? Why
delight
In human sacrifice? Why burst the ties
Of nature that should knit their souls
together
In one soft bond of amity and love?
Yet still they breathe destruction, still
go on,
Inhumanly ingenious, to find out
New pains for life, new terrors for the
grave?
Artificers of death!"

Yet this same bishop in a change of times, when the Earl of Stanhope quoted these expressions in a debate in the house of Lords, and asked if these were still the bishop's sentiments, replied in a low voice, "they were not written to mark the present war;" alas!

"*Manners* with honours, humours change
with crimes,
Tenets with books, and *principles* with
times."

But it certainly requires much deliberation and hesitation before we admit it as an axiom, that this war differs from all others in principle, and in the impracticability of making peace. Let the advocates for war receive as much credit as they can ask for the ambition of Bonaparte. Let them uncontradicted call him despot, or whatever other hard name they please. He certainly is a conqueror, and doubtless has many of the vices of that character; but what has opposition effected but an increase of his power? Every successive year of the long protracted contest against France, as a republic, an oligarchy and a monarchy, has proved the melancholy truth that her power has been annually strengthened and consolidated. What immense provision of blood and treasure has it cost this

empire to contend thus unequally with France? Can we rationally expect that the next fifteen years will be more propitious than the fifteen years which are gone by? The desperate gamester doubles his stake every time, and after losing his last shilling, often madly continues the desperate game.

Spanish Patriotism, and Spanish Patriots were of late very fashionable phrases. Probably in the succeeding vocabulary of fashion, these expressions may not so frequently be found; it is the nature of fashion often to praise its objects though they may not possess merit, and afterwards to decry the very same things with equal levity of judgment.

The infatuated war-whoop is often increased by the mercantile speculator. The current of affairs have hitherto been in favour of speculation, because the progress of the war has favoured the importing merchant, by enhancing the prices of the articles of importation; but the manufacturer has suffered in many cases very severely; the rich farmer has also generally succeeded well, but the middling and poorer classes, especially those who cannot bring large capitals to their aid have suffered exceedingly. The rich merchant who has made his thousands and his tens of thousands by his speculations, says "all is well," and because his coffers swell, adds, "the country is happy, and increasing in wealth;" but what say the less successful candidates for wealth, the smaller traders, who constitute in every state the bulk of the people! They must pay the taxes occasioned by the war, and in the language of that kind hearted benevolent, and deeply regretted state-man, Charles James Fox, whose political situation was some times at variance with his better judgment, when the minister triumphed over the man, "they must be contented from the pressure of times, to go from the second to the third story, or even to the garret." It is justly feared, that the weight of taxes and bad trade, the *legitimate effects of war*, have forced many from the garret down to the cellar. Ask if the present ruinous system of commercial warfare has not forced many of the manufacturers of England, the victims of her

overgrown and morbid commerce, into this situation? and at the expiration of a few short months, if the Orders in Council cause the continuance of the American Embargo; and we do not receive ample supplies of flax-seed for next spring's sowing, let us inquire if our linen weavers and spinners will not be similarly distressed. The welfare of the staple trade of the north of Ireland is endangered by the commercial war in which we are engaged.

I shall give a few excellent lines, descriptive of our present state, from an anonymous imitation of the 8th Satire of Juvenal, published a few years ago, with which I lately met much to my satisfaction. They justly mark the present tendency to elevate the higher ranks, and depress still more the lower and middling classes of society.

"There meet the extremes of rank; there social art

Has level'd mankind by their selfish heart—

There no contented middle class we trace,
The sole ambition to be rich and base.

Some o'er their native element elate,
Like ice-bergs, tow'ring in frozen state,

Repel all nature with their gelid breath,
And what seems harbour is the jaw of death.

The wretched mass beat down, the struggling wind,

Nor see nor feel their country, nor their kind:

But bow the back, and bend the eye to earth,

And strangle feeling in its infant birth;
Thro' all extends one sterile swamp of soul,

And fogs of apathy invest the whole."

The world appears to be divided into two classes, the *dupers* and the *duped*. The former make up for the smallness of their number by their superior dexterity, and their acting together in compact and by a kind of concert. The latter can only recover the long withheld rights of private judgment, by a moderate temperate assertion of their claims, and by calmly using their endeavours to increase their stock of knowledge and information. They then would not resign the important privilege of thought, nor would wars be carried on for the aggrandizement of the *few* to the oppression of the *many*.

K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
WHEN I suggested a few hints on the subject of saving bees during winter, I omitted mentioning the feeding of them, not because I was not aware of its importance, but because I conceived that observations on that point would more properly appear in a future number. The best time for feeding bees, is, I apprehend, early in spring, when upon examination, it is found, that the store laid up for the winter is not sufficient for their support, till they can procure a supply from the gardens and fields; I admit that it is proper to examine the hives immediately after the working season is over; that is the time when the proprietor is to determine which hives he ought to keep for the ensuing season; for it is extremely wrong to suffer hives not intended for stocks to remain after this period. Bees will consume more honey in one month towards the end of autumn, than during the whole winter. But I am of opinion, that it is best to leave such hives as it is proper to keep till the next season, with the store which has been collected, till toward spring when they are to be attended to, and fed, if necessary. It is not worth keeping a hive that does not weigh from 18 to 20 pounds, and a hive of this weight will in general be found to have a sufficient supply of honey, especially if there be a long continuance of cold, severe weather during the winter months; if there should happen to be much mild open weather, during winter, the bees will consume more honey; but it is time enough to examine early in spring, whether they have, or have not a competent supply: the exception to this is, when for some particular reason, we wish to keep a weak hive till the next season. In this case, it is necessary to grant the bees an immediate supply of honey, after the working season is over, to prevent them perishing, as sometimes happens, before the winter sets in, or during the winter months. It is not to be expected however, that hives which it is necessary to supply in this manner will repay the proprietor for his trouble and

expense. It is better to have a few strong hives, than to have a considerable number, which it is necessary to feed from time to time.

Various methods have been suggested by ingenious men for feeding bees. Some recommend to put honey diluted with water, into an empty comb, split reeds, or clean wool; and Wildman describes a particular kind of vessel which he invented for the purpose. Perhaps the very best plan which can be adopted is to feed bees with honey-comb, especially if that be true which is stated by the authors of the "*Maison Rustique*," that pure honey does not form a food sufficiently substantial for them and consequently subjects them to disorders. They advise therefore to feed bees with honey-comb, taken from another hive, the cells of which are filled with crude wax or bee-bread.

If honey-comb cannot be procured, raise the hive from the board on which it is placed, and set underneath it a small plate of liquid honey, covered with paper pierced full of holes, through this the bees will suck the honey without daubing themselves. In a few days the plate may be removed, and an additional supply afforded, if necessary. In case honey cannot be procured, dissolve fine sugar in water so as to make it of the consistence of liquid honey, and present it to the bees in the manner above described, or fill with it the cells of an empty honey-comb, and place it under the hive. Some prefer dissolving the sugar in milk, supposing that they thus obtain a substance more resembling honey. The use of milk can certainly do no harm, though I do not imagine that by this process any particular advantage is gained, with respect to the bees; I confess however that I have not made experiments sufficient to determine this point. Let those who have occasion to feed several hives, try different substances. It is certainly an object to such to ascertain what is most proper for the sustenance of their bees.

I may conclude these remarks by observing that it is advisable to be rather generous than otherwise in feeding weak hives. By affording them an abundant supply, they will be more forward in spring. Bees are faithful

stewards, and will amply repay their master for the plentiful provision he may make for their support. They will be stronger in spring, will most probably swarm earlier in summer, and produce more and larger swarms than hives which have been provided with a scanty store. A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

LAWRENCE STERNE has found a defender in your last-month's Magazine. I cannot agree in the opinion, that the death of an author should excuse him from just criticism. If his works survive and continue to have an injurious tendency on the public taste, no false delicacy should exempt them from merited censure. When I sent the *Anecdotes of Sterne*, I professed to have little acquaintance with his writings; I once made an attempt to read his *Tristram Shandy*, but found the first chapter so gross in its manner, that I closed the book with disgust. I like wit, but detest obscenity. I read his *Sentimental Journey* many years ago; and in it also I met with much to displease. His pruriency of manner was more glossed over, but on that account not less dangerous, for with an affectation of being refined, the delineation of some of his scenes is calculated to give other ideas than directly meet the ear; as in his account of the *Fille de Chambre*.

I give the following quotation from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

"In every serious page, and in many of much levity, the author writes in praise of benevolence, and declares that no one who knew him could suppose him one of those wretches who heap misfortune upon misfortune. But we have heard anecdotes of him extremely well authenticated, which prove that it was easier for him to praise this virtue than to practice it. His wit is universally allowed; but many readers have persuaded themselves that they found wit in his blank pages, while it is probable that he intended nothing but to amuse himself with the idea of the sage conjectures to which these pages would give occasion. Even his originality is not such as is generally supposed by those fond

admirers of the Shandean manner, who have presumed to compare him with Swift, Arbuthnot and Butler. He has borrowed both matter and manner from various authors, as every reader may be convinced by the learned, elegant and candid comments on his works, published by Dr. Ferriar, in the fourth volume of the Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society at Manchester." *Encyclopædia Britanica*, Article, Sterne.

To those who are curious to detect the plagiarisms of Sterne, Dr. Ferriar's Essay above alluded to, will present many specimens of his attempts to deck his writings with borrowed plumes. Dr. Ferriar has traced Sterne's obligation to Rabelais, Dr. Ferrand, Marivaux, Crebillon, Dr. Donne, Dr. Eludd, and especially to Burton in his *Anatomy of Melancholy*; from the latter he appears to have borrowed so implicitly as in many instances to ridicule the follies of Burton's age, though they were not characteristic of the popular errors of the age in which Sterne lived; Dr. Ferriar remarks that "Sterne laughs at many exploded opinions and abandoned fooleries, and contrives to degrade some of his most solemn passages, by a *vicious levity*." He further adds, "I have often wondered at the pains bestowed by Sterne, in ridiculing opinions not fashionable in his day, and have thought it singular, that he should produce the portrait of his Sophist, Mr. Shandy, with all the stains and mouldiness of the last century about him. For the love of scarce and whimsical books, was no vice of the time when *Tristram Shandy* appeared. But I am now convinced that all the singularities of that character were drawn from the perusal of *Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy*; not without reference, however, to the peculiarities of Burton's life, who is alleged to have fallen a victim to his astrological studies. We are told, accordingly, that Mr. Shandy had faith in astrology."

Charges of plagiarisms in his sermons are also substantiated against Sterne, by Dr. Ferriar, who demonstrates that he borrowed not only the general cast of sentiment, but even the very words from Bishop Hall in a variety of instances.

In a frivolous age, Sterne will doubtless have many admirers and advocates. Yet it is pleasing to observe that the number of his imitators is daily diminishing. A chaster, more delicate, and refined style of writing has made its way; and for this improvement I think we are indebted to many highly interesting and elegant female writers of the present day. They in a very considerable degree have contributed to refine our taste, and to banish that *grossness* of expression which defaced the pages of some of the most eminent writers in the beginning and middle of the 18th century. The Barbaulds, the Edgeworths, the Hamiltons, the Burneys, the Hays, the Wakefields, and other female writers have produced this highly pleasing improvement. To the debts we already owed to women, for most of what is truly pleasing and amiable in private life, these writers have laid us under additional obligations by refining our literary taste, and inducing, by the force of their examples, the writers of the other sex to adopt a greater delicacy of style. I congratulate my contemporaries on this improvement. The youth of both sexes need not now fear to meet, in general, in modern works of approved reputation with passages like those, which frequently occur in the pages of Sterne, calculated to

"Give virtue scandal, innocence a fear,
Or from the soft ey'd virgin steal a tear;"
and where we are afraid of meeting in every line with something to shock the feelings of delicacy and modesty, and rendering the task of reading aloud in a mixed company, a precarious office. I regret to add that from this praise, I am compelled to exempt some passages in the writings of the *unequal* Burns, who may be characterized in the language in which the eccentric Dermody describes himself;

"Now Earth-enamoured, growling with
the worm,
Now seraph-plum'd, the wonderful, the
wild."

The writings of Thomas Moore deserve still severer censure, and some of his female imitators have further disgraced themselves and their sex by their amatory effusions.

A READER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE education of youth is a subject on which, although much has been said, and perhaps much done in some places of this Kingdom, yet it must be confessed much remains both to be said and done, even in this enlightened province. The necessity and importance of education to youth ought to be strongly felt by every friend to virtue, and in proportion to the strength of this feeling ought their anxious endeavours to be used in order to promote and encourage this great, this important national concern. In most towns of this province there is a pretty good opportunity of children being educated so far as appears necessary for transacting the common affairs of life, but it is the country schools, of which I intend to speak, and I hope in this I shall have the concurrence of many of your readers. The country in general is so badly supplied with schools, and these conducted on so bad a footing that to all appearance, if some means be not employed to prevent it, the great mass of the rising generation, will degenerate into ignorance, and consequently into barbarism. In many places of the country there is no school-house, and here the only means of educating their children is every summer (for in winter there is rarely any school) to entrust them to the care of some wandering school-master without knowing any thing either of his moral character or his capacity; both may perhaps be good, but if so, then it follows that it is a national disgrace, that men of good character and abilities have no better provision for their subsistence than by wandering from place to place, and often so reduced in appearance as not to be fit to be seen in any respectable company. But to return, the number of children in these schools is often so large, and being stowed up in some barn, where they have neither air, light, nor proper necessaries, it is not to be wondered at, even were the teacher's abilities very good, that their progress should be but small, besides the small pittance paid for wages in

these places will not afford any prospect of making a comfortable livelihood; therefore the number of school-masters is very much decreasing, although the increasing population of the country and the improved methods of teaching would require a very great additional number. In places where school-houses are built, from the smallness of the wages, and from the small number of scholars who attend in winter, the people are under the necessity of either employing a man whose capacity will not enable him to do better, or of wanting altogether instruction for their children; which I know is the case at the present time, in many places. In order to remove all these difficulties, in order to promote the happiness of the rising generation, who are entrusted by their Creator to the care of the more advanced in years, and in better circumstances, and for whose moral and religious education we all stand awfully responsible, let us turn our attention to the means necessary for that great end. This can only be done by exciting a laudable exertion among teachers, and endeavouring to increase their number, by paying men properly qualified a proper annual salary, and as there are many who are unable to be at the expense of paying properly for their children, I am confident there are many public spirited gentlemen, who would contribute largely for this valuable purpose; the government of the country too, no doubt would assist, were the application to come through a proper channel, as the members thereof must, in common with every reasonable man, be sensible of the great necessity there is for such an event, as well as the great benefits which arise to every well regulated community, from the proper education of youth. Were schools once regularly and conveniently established through the country, and properly conducted, a laudable emulation would arise among teachers, and they would take proper care to be duly qualified for their business, as they would then have the prospect of being rewarded for their trouble which is undoubtedly the best stimulus to exertion that can be used. If any of your numerous and respec-

M

table readers will add any thing to these hints, they will it is hoped meet with that success which every virtuous endeavour merits.

A FRIEND TO YOUTH.

Saintfield, Jan. 12, 1809.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

SIR,
WHAT is the cause of the increasing immorality and irreligion of the present age, notwithstanding the rapid advances we are making in science and literature?

The system of education has been advancing gradually during the last 30 years, both in the useful and ornamental walks of northern literature; in the former of which our progress is, in a great measure, to be ascribed to the benevolent and ingenious MANSON. He contributed largely to the banishment of a difficult catechism, and the unintelligible cant of Hebrew names, and substituted in their room the allurements of emulation, the enlargement and culture of the soul, which have produced the fruits of temporal, and we trust, of eternal life, to many of the most respectable inhabitants of your flourishing town. Profiting by his example, others have improved upon his plan, and mere classics have been superseded by a regular course of mercantile learning, scientific classics, and polite literature. These scattered rays I shall rejoice to see collected into one focus in the capital of the North; and thence diverging in well tempered lustre from the majestic brow of Donnard, to the towering cliffs of Mangerton.

But let not mere theory, nor the glare of human learning dazzle our eyes so, that we shall not discover the gloom of infidelity, the false tapers of superstition, and the pitfalls of immorality, that encompass us on all sides. That religious impression has been on the decline for the last twenty years, we may see, from the general disregard of external ordinances, in the Northern Metropolis, from the thin attendance on public worship, from the general breach of the Sabbath, from the applause bestowed on loose

deistical observations in private companies, as well as from the instances of perjury, that so frequently trip the course of law in our courts of justice.

The party spirit, that some years since rendered oaths so common, and bent religion and morals to the madness that ruled the hour, was not a *cause*, but a *consequence* of this consumption of the soul. The true cause we shall find in our system of education, in our neglecting; or making a secondary consideration of what ought to be a primary consideration, viz. the teaching Christian duty as a distinct *integral*, and at the same time, a *constituent* part of modern education.

For though neither the Assembly's Catechism, nor the Scriptures ought to be used as constant school-books, lest the difficulty of them, as elementary books, might give an early distaste to light, life, and happiness, yet ought we not so fastidiously to reject our forefathers' prepossessions in favour of the Book of Life, as to banish it entirely from our schools. By this means, we have got rid of superstition indeed, but by the same new-fangled sweeping act, we have sent into exile all knowledge of the scriptures, domestic prayer, and religious impression. Religion is completely superseded by the news of the day, the rate of markets, speculation, embargo, farming, and slander.

Now, the cure I propose, is the introducing of the Scriptures into the Schools, at least one day in every week, selecting such passages as are most suitable to their tender capacities, and most impressive of the pious and moral principles of truth, honesty, peace, love to God, and love to our neighbour. The giving and requiring, alternately, the necessary explanation of such passages, without meddling with the peculiar tenets of any church, could not fail to rescue the rising generation from the fangs of ignorant infidelity. I shall probably in your next number, develop a very simple plan of reform, for the education of youth, that has engrossed my thoughts for some years past, and that, if adopted by government, would, I trust, give new life, system, and energy to

the schools of Ireland, and at the same time restore us to the fostering bosom of Christianity.

January 27, 1809.

SIMPLEX.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE EFFECT OF GENTLE TREATMENT
IN TAMING ANIMALS, EXEMPLIFIED.

THAT a gentler mode than is generally pursued of taming, or as it is termed, of breaking animals, for the use of man, might be equally advantageous is usually allowed, but seldom practised. We are satisfied with acquiring their services, without much regarding the means by which they are procured, and are unwilling to submit to the tedious course of milder perseverance, while we have in our power the speedier one of severe discipline, not reflecting how frequently, when the lash is withheld, the violence of their nature will break out, even on their immediate masters. I acknowledge that the conduct of a brute is the result of habit however impressed, but it is still a question, and will probably ever remain so, whether habits of patient submission, and endurance of abuse, could not as well be obtained, especially among the nobler species of creatures, whose spirited exertion adds so much to their value, by mild and gentle treatment, as by the harsher methods generally pursued. I am inclined to think that brutes as well as men, have feelings that may be wrought upon, and affections that may be turned to our advantage, if treated with indulgence; and this I shall attempt to establish in a popular manner. I will relate a story which happened almost entirely within my own knowledge, of a dog whose ferocious habits were totally removed, by familiarizing him with the very object on which his fierceness had been accustomed to display itself.

Joe, the subject of my story, was of a mixed breed between a Newfoundland-dog and a mastiff, and first saw light on board an American trader, where he also spent the first six or seven months of his life. About this age, he was given to a gentleman near Londonderry, and when leading on shore, for the first time in his life, either from his ignorance of creatures that he had never met with before,

or prompted by his natural ferocity, he darted from the hand that was leading him, and fastened upon the neck of a horse that was passing by, from which he was with great difficulty disengaged by his master, whose exertions, no doubt, were much strengthened by the dread of having to pay for the horse.

In the possession of his new master he watched the house, yards, and offices, kept intruders at a distance, and was considered by the maurauders round this gentleman's seat, as a most vigilant guard, and most terrible enemy to their pilfering. But surely if perfection is not the lot of man, we can hardly expect it in a brute. Joe's good qualities were sullied, and his vigilance and fidelity rendered almost useless to his master, by his fierceness. For though he lived in luxury, and meals were provided purposely for him, he could not repress his fondness for fresh mutton. The gentleman's sheep were found killed at night, and the delinquency was traced to Joe; he, like rational creatures might plead the force of a natural passion, but it would not be allowed him, and death or banishment must be the consequence of a repetition of his crime. Various plans were pursued to break him of this habit, and among others the following; he was muzzled, his limbs tied up, and in this condition laid across the door of an out-house, into which the sheep had been previously driven; they were then forced out; most of them sprung over him, dreading him even when fallen; but the ram could not pass this opportunity of revenging his slaughtered companions, and his own terrors, and stepping back, butted at him with all his might. This he was suffered to repeat as long as it was thought the dog could endure it. Joe was at length delivered from him, and untied; such was the severity of the discipline he underwent, that he was hardly able to limp to the kitchen fire; the rustics rejoicing in his downfall, and prophesying that he would never again meddle with the sheep.

In this hope, Joe was again permitted to go his rounds. He still exerted his useful qualities in his master's service; he continued watchful and faithful, but he could not

command his passions. How long he looked over the wall of the sheep-fold before he leaped it, whether he listened with one paw on the top-stone, for the shouts of the servants exulting in his fallen state at the stable door, or whether he felt any compunction from the bruises he received there, or when he did make the spring, whether he avoided the ram that took such an ungenerous advantage of him, I do not know, but this I know, that sheep were killed, and the deaths again traced to Joe.

Here severity bordering upon cruelty had an opportunity of fully displaying its power, here the effect of violence upon natural habits might clearly be traced. The experiment was tried and it failed. It remains for me to tell how the feelings of this creature were so wrought upon by gentleness, that his nature was totally changed. I acknowledge the change arose from accidental circumstances, but the greatest discoveries can boast no nobler birth, and if any one wish to try a new mode of treatment to brutes, this accident may serve as a model.

A lamb that was deserted by its dam, was brought into the house and put under the care of a woman servant; it was kept in the upper part of a hen coop, to secure it from the dog, who was observed to look at it very wistfully; and its safety was imputed to its being out of his reach. When the woman fed the lamb, she at first inadvertently gave what remained of its milk to the dog, and Joe began to attend the lamb's meals regularly, for the sake of what he left, and at length became so well reconciled to him, that he used to lick the milk that spilled about the lamb's chops. The woman observing this, improved upon the hint, and now purposely dropped milk upon the lamb which the dog as regularly licked off his woolly coat, without attempting to offer it the least violence. It now became unnecessary to put the lamb out of Joe's reach, and before the spring was far advanced, the two slept together before the fire, the lamb frequently lying between the paws of the greatest enemy to his race. By the time summer had set in, the lamb, by having been a great pet

with the younger part of the family, became very troublesome in the house, and was sent along with others, to a sheep-walk about a mile distant. No sooner had it departed than Joe was missed, and no account was got of him for a day or two, when the family learned from the herd, that he had followed his favourite, and he and the lamb were found lying together, in the midst of the sheep. From that time his entire disposition seemed to have undergone a change: he is less apt to be sullen or sulky towards the domestics, and the youngest child plays with him, without exciting any apprehension for his safety. He now protects the sheep, that he used to worry, and attacks those strange dogs that venture in among the flock; and it may not be undeserving of being mentioned, that in one of these encounters, the lamb, now well grown, came to his assistance, and butted at the stranger, until he was forced to fly.

This I acknowledge may be considered as a solitary instance, on which a change of conduct ought not to be founded; and the objection will be allowed its full force by me with respect to rational creatures, on whom the power of habit exerts itself differently, in different persons, according to their various capacities of reason or fancy; on some it acts with vigour, while others seem totally to reject its influence. But in regard to brutes, their instructive faculties seem nearly on a level, and of course an alteration in the habits of one, will be effected by the same means, that produced a change in those of another. It is well known that the harsh methods generally in use, will produce the same effects in one as another, and why may not a contrary mode of treatment be equally effectual in each?

S. Y. N.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
On perusing a volume of the transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, I met the following curious description of some ancient trumpet, which had been dug out of a bog, in the neighbourhood of Armagh, not many years ago.

The description of them as given by the late Dr. Browne, of Trinity College, Dublin, is as follows;

"The colour of the trumpet is that of brass; the smell also that of brass; for they left on the fingers a very disagreeable odour, not easily or quickly removed.

"Their antiquity appears from the peculiarity of the metallic composition, which is different from any of modern times; and from the parts being joined entirely by rivets, evidently before the art of soldering was known; and from the ornaments about the entire, I think it is plain, that they must have appertained to a nation not in a state of barbarism. Not being an antiquarian I do not venture to say more. When I saw them, they were not sufficiently in repair, or tight to produce sound, but one of them had been made by an artist, in the vulgar expression, air-tight, and sounded by a trumpeter belonging to the 23d regiment of Dragoons, and as I was informed, produced a tremendous sound, which could be heard for miles; by the description I should conceive, resembling the most terrific of all sounds which I have heard, according to my fancy, the Oriental Gong."

To this account is annexed a draft of the instrument itself, with its proportions marked. Hence it appears to have been six feet long, but to have been bent into a form nearly semicircular, the diameter of which from the mouth-piece to the vent is four feet. The mouth-piece itself is an inch broad, but the bore of the tube appears not to have been half that breadth, widening however gradually to the other end, where its diameter is three inches and three quarters. The vent is ornamented by a circular plate of brass, which from its appearance in the plate I conceive to be either wrought in a kind of chased work or engraved; no notice is taken of it in the description.

It is said that four of them had been dug up at the same time and nearly in the same place; and that there is a tradition, that a mighty battle was once fought there, and that some king of Ulster had his palace not far distant; but when, or be-

tween whom the combat was reported to have been, no information could be collected.

As your Magazine has now such an extensive circulation, and must no doubt be in the hands of many persons residing in the neighbourhood of the place where these relics of antiquity were discovered, I wish to make it the medium of an inquiry, whether there be any more satisfactory traditional account of the circumstances here alluded to; and also whether these trumpets are still in existence, and where they may be found. I would suggest the propriety of having them lodged in some public Museum, where they may remain as lasting records; for when in the hands of an individual there is reason to fear that sooner or later they will be neglected, forgotten, and perhaps finally perish.

If any of your Correspondents from that neighbourhood will favour me with the above information they will highly gratify

A CONSTANT READER.

Belfast, Feb. 4, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE BARONY OF ARMAGH.

THE Barony of Armagh is justly entitled to pre-eminence in the county, whether it be considered as to the superior quality of its soil, its greater population, or as being the seat of the metropolis of the county.

The soil is lime-stone, and it abounds with numerous quarries of this valuable fossil; the lands are in good heart, the enclosures in excellent order, and the fields judiciously divided in proportion to the size of the farms; the hedges are of white-thorn, the country is thickly cropped, and the whole surface displays a close neighbourhood of neat and comfortable cottages.

Approaching the city of Armagh, from the westward, or from the bounds of Monaghan county, the prospect is enriched with a considerable quantity of plantation; on the frontiers are the improvements of Glaslough demesne, with those of the Earl of Caledon, which extend into this county; from hence to the vicinity of Killyleagh village, as far as the eye

can reach, the surface is beautifully undulated, and the small conical hills have their summits crowned with clumps of forest trees, and ever-greens; these new improvements are strikingly interesting to the traveller, as he approaches towards the interior, and convey a cheerful happy appearance.

This fine range of country, including the neat demesne of Elm-park, is in the possession of Robert Maxwell, esq. and joins a great extent of lands, the property of the Rev. Henry Maxwell, and John Maxwell, esq. The residence of Elm-park is low, and beautifully surrounded with plantations, which are arranged with very judicious taste.

The village of Killyleagh consists of but one long street, which is very tedious, as it stands on a very steep hill; the houses are well built of lime and stone, with a clean and neat exterior. This village is not remarkable for any trade, but on the last Friday in each month a fair is held, principally attended by dealers in horses.

From hence, as we approach the city of Armagh, the soil, though still limestone, yet changes to a purple hue; from Monaghan bounds to this vicinity it is of a whitish colour, more easily becomes calcined, and is of a much more calcareous quality than the reddish lime-stone.

If its value in this respect is diminished, it is however considerably advanced in another instance, as it now approaches to a species of marble, and, the nearer we approach Armagh, this fossil appears of a more beautiful and excellent quality, and has a greater variety of shade and colour; the prevailing hue is of a reddish brown, and not unlike Egyptian marble in the dispersion of its small blots and patches; the cross lines and dendrites are of a lively shade, and are strongly marked. Another species of marble found here is of a yellow ground, and the dendrites are of a deep red; a third kind is of a dusky brown, but takes the finest polish, and is faintly streaked with white veins, which are generally circular; and a fourth species has a ruddy hue, streaked and spotted with both yellow and white; the several kinds of this fossil, which are

found in this county, are ranked under that description, which mineralogists call plum-pudding marble, from its resemblance to it in its patches. Many of the chimney-pieces in Armagh, and indeed for several miles around, are of its native marble, but few of them display the hand of a masterly artist.

On the Blackwater river, which is the boundary of this county from that of Tyrone, stand two towns, which are both in this barony, viz. Charlemont, and Blackwater-town. They are remarkable as to the pleasantness of their situation, but have no respectable trade. The former town is connected by the bridge with the Moy, which has both a post and fair, but it is situate in the county of Tyrone. Until the act of Union, Charlemont was a borough town, in the patronage of the Earl of Charlemont, and returned two members to parliament; it is governed by a Portrieve, and has also a military governor on the staff, with a barrack for three companies of foot. From this town the family of Caulfield take the title of Earl.

The Blackwater river forms a very beautiful and grand feature along the boundary, flowing between spacious and fertile banks, which are partially covered with plantation. This fine water first comes in view near the town of Caledon, as we approach from Monaghan borders, and from the handsome bridge, which here crosses the river; the prospect is from either side very interesting, whether we look to the highly improved demesne of Lord Caledon, which extends to the bridge, or down the river towards Armagh, where the country is so fertile and ornamented with capital inclosures; the whole line of road from Glaslough to Caledon is very pleasing, comprising the finest views of Glaslough and Caledon demesnes. In this point of view, Caledon-house stands to great advantage, on a very elevated site, and exhibits a model of beautiful and modern architecture.

All this country, which I have described, yields the finest wheat crops.

The only town or village west of Armagh, and at about six miles distance, is Keady, where there is little

else to recommend it, in its present state, than a very good church. Its natural situation is favourable, having a fine stream, the river Callen, intersecting the town. On this water are numerous bleach-greens and mills, from hence to Armagh; this appearance of wealth and commerce is very engaging, and the busy scenes on these banks are enlivened with many ornamental improvements. The bleach-green of Messrs. Holmes are the most considerable in the district. The river Callen flows between lofty banks, contiguous to the village of Keady, or rather in a deep or narrow glen; in these banks are indications of several minerals, as lead-ore, manganese, and ochres.

The Earl of Farnham is proprietor of the very rich lead mines, which the late Earl worked extensively, near Keady. Samples of this ore are in the Dublin Society's Museum.

The country in this vicinity, towards Monaghan, is wild and rude, but reclaiming fast. Land, within these fifteen years past, has nearly doubled in value, and is now set at the average rate of sixteen shillings per acre, though without limestone; it had been within the memory of the present age, almost all in heath and absolute waste.

The city of Armagh stands on very high ground, in the midst of a finely improved and beautiful country. The river Callen flows at the foot of the hill, just below the town, on its passage to the Blackwater river, into which it is discharged near Charlemont.

The cathedral, which is on the summit of the hill, has a commanding site, and is a conspicuous object at a considerable distance. This edifice commands our attention, whether we consider its antiquity, or its pre-eminence, as being the metropolitan church of Ireland.

The church is said to have been originally built of willows, or wattles, like most of the primitive churches, before the use of stone and mortar building was known; from thence it was named Drumsailech, or, the church built of willows; or Ardsailech, the high place of willows: but Ware says this name refers to the vicinity of

the town, which was crowded with willows growing on the banks of the river Callen.*

Such was the state in which it was, when St. Patrick here fixed his see, Anno 445, and was the first bishop. This hill, or rising ground, being granted to him by Daire, a chief of the adjacent country, he changed the name of the place to Ardماغh, or the high place or plain. St. Patrick† founded the abbey for the regular order of Augustinian canons, Anno 457, which he dedicated to the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, and which, for several centuries, was the most celebrated school for theology in Christendom, and, during the middle ages, was not only much resorted to by the natives, but also by the Anglo Saxons from Britain. There existed another good reason for this place having been chosen by St. Patrick for the founding of his metropolitan see; as a royal residence is recorded to have stood in this neighbourhood, and also a famous city, the capital of Ulster, which was called Eamhaim, or Eamania, derived from *aem-huim-ue*, which signifies, the potent or noble city. It was said to have been founded by a Scotch prince, above two centuries before Christ, and was sacked and burned by Caibre Liffear, a chief of Connaught, in the fourth century.‡

St. Patrick, after having remained for ten years in the primacy, resigned it to St. Benignus, and lived, in private, to see it descend to three successors, all of whom he nominated. He died

* This part of the river was noted for being the spot where king Nial was drowned, who was succeeded by Malachi the first.

† See Ware's account of the bishops of the see; and see Jocelyn, the Lanchashire monk, in his Life of St. Patrick, chap. 165. "He placed his archbishop's see in the same city, designing it for the primacy, metropolis, and mistress of all Ireland." And chap. 166; "He built the metropolitan church of Ardماغh for the good of souls, and for the good of that city and the whole kingdom."

‡ Colgan says the ruins of this city were standing in his time; Mr. O'Connor places its building 353 years before Christ.

on the 17th of March, 492, and was buried in the county of Down.

The reader who is curious to trace his successors, the bishops of Armagh, will find them recorded in Ware, with some curious historical annals, down to 1678, when Michael Boyle was in that year translated to Armagh; and another list of the archbishops of this see will be found in Bateson's Political Index, to the enthronement of Doctor Richard Robinson, in 1765, who was afterwards Lord Rokeby, and whose munificence to the see and town of Armagh will record his memory to the latest posterity. His Lordship's successor was Doctor William Newcome, who was succeeded by his Grace the present Primate, the Honourable and Reverend Doctor William Steuart, who numbereth the hundred and fifth bishop of Armagh.

A monastery was built here by St. Columba, Anno 610, which, with the town, was nearly consumed by fire, in the years 670 and 687, and was frequently plundered by the Danes, the inhabitants massacred, and the books, records, and treasures carried off by those free-booters, which has been an irreparable loss to the civil and ecclesiastical history and antiquities of Ireland.

In the year 1013, the bodies of King Brian Boromh, and his son Murchaid, with the heads of his nephew Conoing, and of Prince Mothlan his ally, who were slain at the battle of Clontarf, near Dublin, were removed to the cathedral of Armagh from the monastery of Swords, where they had been buried for five years. As this monarch and his family had been liberal benefactors to this see, they were interred with great pomp. The king himself was buried in a stone coffin on the north side of the church; and Murchaid, and the heads of Conoing, and Prince Mothlan on the south side.

The archbishoprick of Armagh was not constituted till the year 1142, when at the same time were the others of Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam, by Cardinal Papirio, who was sent to Ireland by Pope Eugenius, with the consent of the king, dukes, bishops, abbots, and states of the kingdom, to reform the abuses, which had crept into the church discipline.

This cathedral was often burned from intestine commotions, and, on being rebuilt, was always enlarged, particularly by Patrick Scanlan, Anno 1262, who was then bishop. His successor, Nicholas Molessa, added several valuable gifts, bestowed his manor of Dromiskin to the see, and charged his manor Tlomonfeckin with twenty marks annually towards the enlargement of the edifice.

The see of Armagh was valued in the king's books, in an extent taken in the 30th of Henry VIII. at 185*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* Irish money; but, by an extent returned in the 15th of James I. it is valued at 400*l.* per annum, and pays so much first fruits. It is rated to be at present worth 8000*l.* per annum.

The dignitaries are the Dean, Chancellor, Treasurer and Archdeacon. Of the vicars choral are two priests, one of whom was added by Primate Marsh, Anno 1702. In 1720, Primate Lindsay procured a charter to encrease the vicars choral to eight, and expended 4000*l.* in the purchase of property to encrease the estate of the choir. There is also an organist attending on the cathedral service. The choir is reputed to be superior to any in Ireland, and its discipline is most particularly attended to.

The cathedral, in its present shape, represents the figure of a cross; from the point of intersection a square tower is raised, from which branch off, at right angles, the four compartments of the cathedral. The elevation of the tower is well proportioned to the height of the roof,* and would be complete if a steeple was raised on it, which was intended, when the general repair was given to the cathedral by Primate Robinson; but, by the obstinacy of the architect, in opposition to the opinion of Lord Rokeby, the walls of the old tower were built on, which were afterwards found unequal to the support of a steeple.

* This remark may appear erroneous if this edifice is only viewed from the market-place *en passant*, as it stands on a very abrupt and bold hill, and, consequently, but a small part comes in view from the street, at its base, but free without the town it is seen to great advantage.

having failed in several places, which occasioned the finishing of the tower in its present form.

Within the aisles of the cathedral are some monuments; amongst the best executed is that of Doctor Drelincourt, who was dean of this see. An extensive burial ground surrounds the cathedral, which is enclosed with a very strong, though not a lofty wall; and through it is made a very neat gravel walk, approaching the cathedral from the several entrances.

The city of Armagh is indebted to the spirited and munificent liberality of Primate Robinson, who was the founder, or rather the donor of all the elegant public buildings which it is so justly celebrated for, and of the rebuilding and planning the very capital streets, which adorn it, and make it very superior to all the inland towns in Ireland; and, by the care of Lord Rokeby, the permanency of his endowments was secured by several acts of Parliament obtained for that purpose. From his Grace's example, encouragement, and assistance, and very much indeed at his private expence, this most ancient city has been renovated into its present style of modern beauty, and its police is managed by wise and strict regulations.

After having given a general repair, with some additions of ornament, to the cathedral, Lord Rokeby's love of literature was displayed in founding a library, which is a very handsome public building, and well designed for the purpose, which he filled with the most scarce and valuable store of books, of ancient and modern literature; having bestowed on it a property, as a perpetual fund, for the increase of the books, the repairs of the house, and the salary of a librarian, for whom are assigned a suit of very elegant apartments within the building. The revenue for this establishment is now a perpetuity, and yields 300*l.* per annum.

The observatory, which stands just without the town, is another edifice, of very elegant appearance, which owes its existence to his Grace's munificence. This he also endowed with a perpetual fund, which, with the lands annexed to it, is worth 400*l.* per annum to

the resident astronomer, who has fine apartments, and a very elegant demesne. The observatory stands on an elevated site, and is well furnished with the most valuable and costly instruments, which this noble patron of the sciences furnished at no less expence than 3000*l.*

Immediately opposite this beautiful building, and at the base of a hill, on which it stands, his Grace erected a spacious and regular edifice for the endowed school of Armagh, which was laid down on so large a scale, as to acquire the distinguishing appellation of the College of Armagh, which it has since retained. It may be proper to remark in this place, that even these extensive concerns were only a small part of what his Lordship intended them to be; his great design was to erect a university in this city, which should have been on the most extensive scale; and all his improvements and plans were intended as tributary to this grand scheme. It was a favourite object with this good primate, to encourage literature and the sciences, which this vast project would so amply provide for; but it was necessary to have the assistance of government in this respect, though he intended, had they seconded his laudable views, to have dedicated his own ample fortune towards its success. Whatever were the objections of government to this great national benefit, they did not immediately unite with Lord Rokeby, although they gave reason to expect, that the time was not remote when they might support it. After a long interval, Lord Rokeby despaired at last of being able to see his favourite object accomplished; but, in order towards setting it afloat, he bequeathed by his will 5000*l.* for that purpose, provided the plan was adopted, and the first stone laid within five years after his decease. He conceived that, as he left the matter to be adopted by the wisdom of the legislature, which he could not have the direction of when in their hands, it would be a national concern, and would require but small individual aid, which occasioned his limiting his bequest to 5000*l.* Had his project been adopted

when he first proposed it to government, he would doubtless have bestowed on it the principal part of his fortune, as he was often heard to declare. The benefit of this valuable legacy has not been embraced, and the limited time has elapsed, without any step having been taken; of course it has reverted to the conditions of the will; nor is there any probability that his Lordship's views, for the founding of this seminary, will ever be adopted. The money he expended on the College of Armagh amounted to full 4000*l.* with which sum, and the funds for that establishment, the present elegant building was raised; and the late Rev. Doctor Grueber, who had long ably discharged the duties of principal, at this time, at an advanced age, resigned on a liberal compensation; and, by the desire of Lord Rokeby, the Rev. Doctor Carpendale, who had with great credit presided at the endowed school of Carrickmacross, was removed to this professorship, nor could his Grace have made choice of a master more eminently qualified for the discharge of this important trust, as the unanimous testimony of the gentlemen fully evince, who have been so fortunate as to receive their education under his careful superintendence.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MODE OF CURING BUTTER.

BUTTER is a substance so well known in this country, that it is needless for us here to give a description of it. It is one of the three component parts of milk, the other two being whey and cheese: it is naturally distributed through all the other substances of the milk in very small particles, which are interspersed betwixt the *caseous* and *serous* parts, amongst which it is suspended by a slight adhesion, but without being dissolved; it is in the same state in which oil is in an emulsion, hence the same whiteness of milk and emulsions, and hence by rest, the oily parts separate from both these liquors to the surface and form a cream; milk may therefore very properly be called an animal emulsion; butter

composes its oily part, which by the interposition of its particles gives an opaque white colour, the cheese serves as a mucilage to keep the oily parts suspended, and lastly, whey, which is naturally transparent, is the aqueous substance which is a vehicle for the other two. Butter, though used at present as an article of food in most countries of Europe, was scarcely known to the ancients. This is completely proved by Professor Beckmann in the 2nd. volume of his "*History of Inventions.*"

In our translation of the Bible, there is indeed, frequent mention made of butter at very early periods; but as the Professor well observes, the greatest masters of biblical criticism, unanimously agree that the word so translated, signifies milk or cream, or sour thick milk, and cannot possibly mean what we call *butter*. The oldest mention of butter, the Professor thinks, is in the account of the Scythians given by Herodotus (lib. IV. 2) who says, that "these people pour the milk of their mares into wooden vessels, cause it to be violently stirred or shaken by their blind slaves, and separate the part which arises to the surface, as they consider it more valuable and delicious than what is collected below it." That this substance must have been a soft kind of butter is well known, and Hippocrates gives a similar account of Scythian butter, and calls it *πικρίον*, which Galen translates by the word *βούτυρον*.

The poet Anaxandrides, who lived soon after Hippocrates, describing the marriage feast of Iphicrates, who married the daughter of Cotys, king of Thrace, says that the Thracians ate butter, which the Greeks at that time considered as a wonderful kind of food. Dioscorides says, that good butter was prepared from the fattest milk, such as that of sheep, or goats, by shaking it in a vessel till the fat was separated. To this butter he ascribes the same effects, when used externally, as those produced by our butter at present. He adds also, and he is the first writer who makes the observation, that fresh butter might be melted and poured over pulse and vegetables instead of oil, and that it might be employed

in pastry, in the room of other fat substances. A kind of soot likewise was at that time prepared from butter, from external applications, which was used in curing inflammation of the eyes and other disorders. For this purpose the butter was put into a lamp and when consumed, the lamp was again filled till the desired quantity of soot was collected in a vessel placed over it. Galen who distinguishes and confirms in a more accurate manner the healing virtues of butter, expressly remarks, that cow's milk produces the fattest butter; that butter made from sheep's or goat's milk is less rich, and that asses' milk yields the poorest. He expresses his astonishment, therefore, that Dioscorides should say that butter was made from the milk of sheep and goats. He assures us that he had seen it made from the milk of cows, and that he believes it had thence acquired its name. "Butter" says he, "may be very properly employed in ointments and when leather is besmeared with it, the same purpose is answered as when it is rubbed over with oil. In cold countries which do not produce oil, butter is used in the baths; and that it is a real fat, may be readily perceived by its catching fire when poured over burning coals." What has been said here is sufficient to show that butter must have been very little known to or used by the Greeks and the Romans in the time of Galen, that is, at the end of the second century.

The Professor having collected, in chronological order, every thing which he could find in the writings of the ancients respecting butter, concludes, that it is not a Grecian, much less a Roman invention, but that the Greeks were made acquainted with it by the Scythians, the Thracians, and the Phrygians, and the Romans, by the people of Germany. And if we can but persuade ourselves to credit our impartial historian, *Gordon*, it is highly probable that the Scythian colonists, who invaded Ireland some centuries before the Christian era, first brought the art of making butter into this country. It appears pretty evident, from the Professor's accurate account, that neither the Greeks nor Romans used butter as

food; but only as an ointment, or sometimes as a medicine. The case is at present very different; and as forming no inconsiderable portion of the national wealth of this country, as well as so general an article of food, butter seems entitled to every attention, both to the mode of making and curing of it. We shall accordingly lay before our readers, the following receipt for curing it, which may be found in Dr. Anderson's View of the Agriculture of the county of Aberdeen, who says that he knows of no simple improvement in *economics* greater than this is, when compared with the usual mode of curing butter by means of common salt alone. "I have seen (continued he) the experiment fairly made, of one part of the butter made at one time being cured according to the receipt; and the other part cured with salt alone, the difference was inconceivable. I should suppose that in any open market, the one would sell 30 per cent above the other." The receipt is as follows. "Take two parts of the best common salt, one part of sugar, and one part of salt, petre; beat them up together and blend the whole completely. Take one ounce of this composition for every sixteen ounces of butter, work it well into the mass, and close it up for use." "The butter cured by the above receipt," says Dr. Anderson, "appears of a rich marrowy consistence and fine colour, and never acquires a brittle hardness nor tastes salt; the other is comparatively hard and brittle, approaching more nearly to the appearance of tallow, and is much saltier to the taste. I have ate butter cured with the above composition, that had been kept *three years*, and it was as sweet as at first; but it must be noted, that the butter thus cured requires to stand three weeks or a month before it is begun to be used. If it be sooner opened, the salts are not sufficiently blended with it; and sometimes the coolness of the nitre will be perceived, which totally disappears afterwards."

In addition to this, Dr. Anderson advises against keeping butter in *stone jars*, or letting milk remain long in *leadened vessels*, as they communicate a poisonous quality to the butter or milk

that has been long kept in them, which must inevitably prove destructive to the human constitution; for the well known effects of the poison of lead is bodily debility, palsy, death. And we entirely agree with the Dr. in recommending wooden dishes, when kept thoroughly clean, for holding butter. G.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ROSA...A MORAL TALE.

IN a mean looking house, in one of those unwholesome lanes which disgrace the city of London, among other hapless objects, driven by misfortune to take refuge in it, lived Mrs. St. Clair, and an only daughter. Sorrow, during her early years, she had felt in many shapes; and meagre poverty now formed the bitter climax of her sufferings.

The father of an only brother and herself, was educated for a church clergyman, but unfortunate in interest and recommendation, never attained a higher degree than that of curate, which he filled in an humble village. A brother of Mr. Davenant, who had resided some years in India, sent for his son, early in life; and promised he would for the future provide for him. This weight taken off the worthy curate, he devoted his time solely to the improvement of his daughter, and their humble board, though regulated by economy, never refused a welcome to the unfortunate or to the sincere friend.

Chance, or if our readers please, destiny so decreed, that the young Viscount Loughshiel, only heir to the title and estate of Roxborough, was, by the startling of his horses, thrown from his travelling carriage, within a few paces of the curate's door. Thither, he was conveyed, and the surgeon of the village sent for; who, after the necessary examination, declared his lordship had received no material injury, except a broken arm. Minute particulars are here unnecessary; suffice it to say, that accustomed during his recovery, to the constant society, and attentions of the lovely Rosa, his heart paid a willing tribute to her charms, nor could she long remain insensible of the elegant and polished

manners of his Lordship. Accustomed to pay the strictest attention to the duties of his profession, Mr. Davenant never thought it possible that his daughter would venture to raise her eyes to the heir of Roxborough, or that that heir could ever spend a thought on an humble curate's daughter, consequently he left them but too many opportunities of being alone, and in an ill-fated moment, soothed by the most solemn assurances of marriage, the hapless Rosa forgot what was due to her sex and character, nor dreamt of the misery which from that eventful moment attended her. The young lord, now perfectly recovered, had no longer a plea to remain at the cottage, and with innumerable vows of speedy return and unshaken fidelity, reluctantly tore himself from his weeping Rosa, fully convinced that his love could never swerve from its object. But Lord Loughshiel was no more than man. He was a young, and consequently an unsteady one. That he then thought his love would prove as lasting as it was fervent, we will do him the justice to believe true; but no sooner had he beheld the beautiful and admired heiress, Lady Ismena Somerville, just burst upon the gazing world in all the charms of wealth and loveliness, than Rosa, and her more unassuming accomplishments, vanished from memory, or was only recalled to congratulate himself that his infatuated passion had carried him no further than unwitnessed promises.

Oh, man! unfeeling man! licensed in villainy, encouraged in vice! Where are your boasted prerogatives of superiority? Do they consist in trampling on the weak? in oppressing the oppressed? in seducing the unhappy female from the paths of peace and virtue? in glorying in your own wickedness and her shame? In this world, though your lawless passions triumph unchecked, think you not there is a greater, a more awful tribunal, where the burning tears of your victim, the wild desperation of the mother, and the weak cry of the not unfrequently murdered infant, will sound dreadful in your ears, and pronounce your condemnation in terms, bitter and decided as your guilt?

While Lord Loughshiel basked in the smiles of the beautiful Ismena, the unhappy victim of his passion lived but in the expectation of his return. But weeks and months of anxiety rapidly passed over, and to add to the horrors of her situation, she felt she had every prospect of becoming a disgraced and anguished mother. This state of suspense was soon put an end to by a horrible certainty. A weekly paper chanced to fall into her hands, and the following paragraph at once arrested her attention. "Married, on Tuesday evening last, the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Loughshiel, only son and heir to the illustrious house of Roxborough, to the beautiful, and much admired Lady Ismena Sommerville." The unhappy Rosa, read not the account of bridal festivities, which followed. A burning meteor seemed to shoot across her brain, and with an agonised shriek, she sunk at the feet of her father. It now became impossible longer to conceal her situation; the good old curate heard it with a pang, similar to the cold dart of death. He viewed the wreck of all his hopes in bitter agony; but his was not a spirit of wrath; it bowed before the hand which afflicted him, and meekly endeavoured to administer that consolation, he himself felt he could but feebly experience.

"Oh Rosa!" he said, "the stroke falls heavy! but I am chiefly to blame, who left you my child, young, innocent, and inexperienced, to the society and converse of a villain!" Rosa heard him in a state of misery, which hapless woman alone is fated to endure. "We must leave this, Rosa," said the curate; after a short pause. "I will resign my curacy, I could not bear to see the slow moving finger of scorn point at thee." "At thee," he continued, turning aside to conceal the tears which streamed down his venerable cheeks; "who hast been my pride; whom I have held up as a pattern!" his voice grew inaudible.

"Oh! reproach me my father in mercy, as I deserve," said his wretched daughter; "but talk not so feelingly, so leniently of my crime. Ah! still retain your situation, ever hallowed, ever undisturbed; and let the guilty

wretch who has brought thy grey hairs to shame and sorrow, wander to some lonely spot, where, unknown, and unregarded, her life and miseries may terminate together." "And what to me, my Rosa, hadst thou left me, would make life valuable?" said the good old man, as he strained an eye of agony on her altered form. "No! no! we will not separate! we will bear the shafts of misfortune together, God will provide for us; I am not yet too old to work!"

As no time was to be lost in their removal, Mr. Davenant hastened to resign his curacy, to the Rector, who resided about six miles distant, and whose age almost incapacitated him from officiating. In a few hasty and agitated words, Mr. Davenant informed him that peculiar circumstances would prevent him from continuing longer in the fulfilment of his office. But the Rector was truly a man of God; and in Mr. Davenant's pallid countenance, his quick tremulous tones, and eye of sadness, he read a dark tale of misery; and so soothing, so heart-consoling was the voice in which he addressed him, so tender, yet so delicate, his inquiries into his situation, that the poor curate, in the fulness of his heart, if he did not altogether betray his secret, left sufficient room for his patron to guess at the reality of it.

"Have you any prospect when you leave this?" said the Rector, after a short pause. Mr. Davenant with a deep sigh answered in the negative. Again the Rector paused; "I have formed a scheme," he at length continued, "which I think will tend to our mutual advantage. A friend of mine wrote to me some time ago, to recommend a gentleman, calculated to fill the office of Curate. I did so and in a few days he was to proceed to his place. He is a young man, and all situations I should suppose are to him alike; therefore as I am doomed to lose you, my worthy friend, what think you of a fair exchange? Suppose I retain the young man, and send you to officiate in his place. A few days will prepare my friend to receive you; He lives within a few miles of London, where you, I believe, are perfectly unknown, and

as you wish to be at a distance from this, I think it will in every respect answer you." Mr. Davenant's gratitude may be better concerned than described. He wrung his benefactor's hand in expressive silence, and with a heart filled with pious thankfulness to God, and him, hastened to cheer the heart of his Rosa, with an account of his goodness. Every preparation was now made for a speedy removal; and the evening before they were to depart, Rosa, in the twilight hour, had stolen out to take a last leave of the scenes of her infancy; the Curate was lost in meditation, when a servant whose livery proclaimed him Lord Loughshiel's, delivered a letter to the maid who opened the door; "for Miss Davenant, said he." The curate hastily snatched it, and with mingled feelings of contempt and indignation read the following;

"My lovely Rosa!

I suppose long ere this, you have heard of my damned queer kind of a male up marriage; and are accusing me of falsehood, baseness, &c. but I love you ten thousand times better than I did before it took place; it was all of my father's contriving; all his plan; therefore, my beautiful Rosa, the moment you receive this, my fellow will get you a carriage, and dash up to town directly; where you shall shine in jewels, like a Sultana! ride in a phaeton, handsomer than she, whom I call wife, and be ever dearer to the heart of *Loughshiel.*"

"Go tell the man who waits," said Mr. Davenant, calmly to the maid-servant, who stood while he read this fashionable scroll, "that an answer shall be sent to the public house of the village an hour hence;" the man retired grinning, and fearful of Rosa's entrance, Mr. Davenant hastened to his study, and thus addressed his Lordship.

"My Lord!

"Your favour of the 12th inst. duly reached—not the victim it was meant to crush with the stroke of death, but her hapless, wretched father: start not my Lord! your Lordship is superior to the stings of conscience. Your rank, your consequence, gives you a never failing passport to disseminate vice and misery successfully: and

the sorrows of a poor old man, or the heart broken sigh of the lost victim of your licentious arts, excites but the brutal laugh of intoxication, at the debauchee's rout, or the midnight revel! Oh ye libertines! for what do you live? I am an old man and a father; an agonized father! I have therefore a license to be garrulous: I have seen a beauteous innocent bud and blossom in retirement; I have seen her the adored of her father, the idolized of her mother, the admiration of the young, and the boasted pattern of the aged; the comfort of the poor, and the delight of all around her. I have seen this virtuous female, snatched from her pure, and peaceful home; I have seen her, lured by the voice of a specious villain, fluttering a gay meteor, in the paths of licentious dissipation; I have heard her madly scoff the maxims she had been hitherto taught to cherish; I have heard her frantically deny the existence of a *God*, or of a *future state*! but I have also heard the sigh of her heart broken spirit; I have noticed the wild throbbings of her bosom! her mad laugh of despair! and while the sallies of her fevered mirth echoed round the circle of bacchanalians, who attended her, I have groaned in the agony of my spirit. "*Oh! man! boasted man! this is thy work! and for this is it that libertines live!*" I have then traced this poor victim, till deserted by her base seducer, she is consigned to another, and another; till she descend to the last stage of female infamy! I have marked her diseased frame, her pallid cheek, her trembling form, her frenzied eye, eager in pursuit of the only cordial which can now give oblivion to her wretchedness. I have heard that voice, which in the social winter's evening, in her father's house, has given added swiftness to the passing hours of innocence, I have heard it—Oh! merciful heaven! fraught with fearful oaths, and frantic imprecations! I have followed her to her wretched garret, and have seen her abandoned, despised, and miserable, expire in the most pitiable agonies, a loathsome object of disease! I have followed her to the humble grave, allotted her by charity! I have dropped a tear to the hapless victim; and have groaned

forth—*Oh ! man ! boasted man ! this is thy work ! and for this is it, that libertines live !*" And now, does your Lordship understand the lesson ? Just such, the fate you design for my Rosa, just such, the misery you would consign her to endure. Oh blush ! my Lord, blush ! and pause in the midst of your career, you have already the satisfaction of reflecting, that, you are not far behind your compeers in iniquity ; you have ruined the fair hopes of a young and innocent woman ! You have taken a villainous advantage of an unsuspecting old man ; you have tinged his grey locks with the bitterest shade of sorrow ; for it springs from shame ! you oblige him to fly the home of twenty years, to seek a shelter from disgrace and sorrow ; and *for this is it, that libertines live !* Take this letter to your closet, my Lord ; read it with attention, and in mercy to yourself, and others, quit your broad, but dangerous way : my happiness, or my hapless Rosa's, you cannot restore. From you we crave no boon, but a liberty of indulging the sorrows you have occasioned, undisturbed by further insult. Beware, my Lord, how you further pursue it, for though my arm is old and feeble, I have a boy, who yet may return to his native country, to revenge the dishonour of my poor girl. Your Lordship need not trouble yourself to send any more letters as they will remain unanswered.

Charles Davenant."

Such was the letter sent by Mr. Davenant to Lord Loughshiel ; and anxious to preserve Rosa from the knowledge, that she had been further insulted, he hastened to assist in preparations for their departure. A very short space saw them settled in their new habitation, where Rosa assumed the name of Mrs. St. Clair, and passed for the widow of an officer who had been killed abroad, and here it was our heroine was born, whom we shall also call Rosa. It would be equally tedious and unnecessary to dwell on the period of her infancy, to say how much superior she was in smartness to other children of the same age, or how often the fond grand-father forgot in the little prattler's endearments, the error which

had occasioned her birth. We will only say that by the curate's and her mother's care, she became as she grew up, a most excellent English scholar ; that she was rather handsome than otherwise, and that her figure was tall and elegant, as a heroine's should be. In this interval of quietness many letters had arrived from Rosa's uncle, in India. The last reached them a few days before she had completed her sixteenth year. It stated that he every day became more and more a favourite with the elder Mr. Davenant, who had declared his intention of making him sole heir to the immense property he possessed. That he was now almost in a state of second childhood, and had given over all intention of visiting his native country, and that he (the younger Davenant) only waited for his decease to return to England where, in the bosom of his family, rested all his hopes and wishes. He regretted his inability to remit any money to his father, as so far from allowing him a profusion of pocket-money, the nearer his uncle approached to death, the more parsimonious he became.

The contents of this letter gave sincere pleasure to Mr. Davenant. The good old man was far gone in years, and had been long declining ; and his only prospect now in life, consisted in the wish of placing Mrs. St. Clair and Rosa under his son's protection. The younger Mr. Davenant, equally with Rosa, was unacquainted with his sister's peculiar misfortunes. He thought her merely the widow of an officer, as represented. To explain these circumstances, and obtain for his young Rosa a guardian, was the curate's desire. But, alas ! it was not a task permitted to him. The tyrant death claimed his own, and a few days after the receipt of his son's letter, the good old man, without feeling any particular pain, quietly sunk into his arms. Rosa's sorrow was unbounded, Mrs. St. Clair also wept her father, with heartfelt anguish. But this, she felt, was not a season for supineness. They had now, with but very slender means to seek a new home, as it was natural to suppose, an incumbent would be immediately provided to fill the curacy. Inexperienced in

the world, and friendless, they had few resources for exertion. The trifling annuity of Mr. Davenant had hitherto with the most rigid economy supported them, and little remained to dispose of but the furniture of the cottage.

The prospect was truly dreary, but hope still visited them, in the form of Edward Davenant, and they looked forward to his arrival, as the termination of misfortune. In the interim, however, it was necessary to strike out some plan of subsistence; as it would be at least far advanced in the ensuing season, ere Edward could arrive. Many schemes were started, and disapproved of. At length Mrs. St. Clair determined to take cheap lodgings in London, where she could not fail of hearing of East India arrivals, and to endeavour for a support, by taking in work from the milliners, for herself and Rosa. The furniture was disposed of by auction, for the paltry pittance of forty pounds; and a hackney chaise being procured from a neighbouring town, our dejected travellers, with this, their little all, took leave of the peaceful village, and unfriended and unknown, entered the vast and busy metropolis. Though highly amused by the constant succession of different faces, Rosa was almost stunned, by the confusion and noise. At the inn where they were obliged to sleep, Mrs. St. Clair inquired if they could recommend her to any decent reputable lodging? Some of the saucy domestics stared with impertinent curiosity, others laughed, while a third, pertly sneering, repeated the word reputable! The landlady, however, mentioned several, which she said *Will*, their *skay-boy* *knoved* very well, and would drive them to in the morning. Accordingly, after but an indifferent night's rest, having settled their bill at the inn, a hackney coach again dragged them and their baggage through the bustling streets of the city, without obtaining what they wanted. Some were quite too high in their terms, for the state of Mrs. St. Clair's finances; others refused to take them without a proper recommendation, and others again appeared by their contemptuous looks, by no means ambitious of receiving hackney-coach lodgers.

Almost despairing, Mrs. St. Clair was on the point of desiring the man to return to the inn, when a paper put up at the window of a neat looking house, with "lodging to let," attracted her attention. She desired the driver to stop, and a woman appeared, who, though by no means very prepossessing, yet answered them civilly. She said, "she had two very good rooms to let, and that they were three-half-guineas a week." These terms were more reasonable than any Mrs. St. Clair had yet met with; yet, still she knew they were too expensive for her means, but as she saw no prospect of bettering herself at present, she, on viewing the rooms, and finding them tolerable, agreed with the woman at her own price, and her baggage being conveyed in, dismissed the chaise, when completely fatigued, her and Rosa took possession of their apartments. After having partaken of some refreshment they had ordered, Mrs. St. Clair sat down to calculate the amount of their two days expenses, and pulling out her purse, found that her bill at the inn had no little diminished its contents, and every moment convinced them of the necessity of gaining employment. Rosa rung the bell, and the woman appearing, Mrs. St. Clair, in tremulous accents, inquired if she knew of any place where fancy or plain work, which she would ensure to be well and quickly performed, could be procured? Mrs. Woodly looked at once surprised and displeased and sulkily muttered, "if they had no other dependance than that, she was afraid her lodgings would not answer them!"

"When we are unable to discharge our lodgings," returned Mrs. St. Clair, with a look of dignity which sunk her into insignificance, "it will be time sufficient for you to animadvert on a subject, which till then cannot concern you!" We cannot take upon us to say, whether the manner Mrs. St. Clair answered, had any effect, or whether her purse, which she had laid on the table, with a view of the guineas shining through the silk netting, had softened her landlady's temper, but she hastily replied,

"To be sure Ma'am, 'tis none of my business, every one has a right to do as they please, and to be *sartaint*,

if Miss and you *chuses* to amuse yourselves, why should'nt you? and as you were *aring*, if I *knowed* of any such thing as work to be got, why I don't think but I can put you in the way of it, for d'y'e see, Ma'am, I have a niece, the child of my poor dead brother, whom I was as fond of, as if she was my own a hundred times, and after I gave her good *larnings*, I was advised to put her *prentice* to a milliner, where she still is. They have more work often than they can do, and *is* almost constantly obliged to give out; and——"

Here Mrs. St. Clair, though surprised by the alteration in the woman's manner, hastily interrupted her, by desiring her to send for the girl early in the morning. To this Mrs. Woodyly, now all complaisance, gave an immediate acquiescence; but they found themselves, on her arrival, under the disagreeable necessity of waiting on her mistress, who after some time, pleased by their appearance, agreed to give them constant work, provided they came for it, and brought it home. This was the most unpleasant part of the business, but they had no alternative.

Day after day now passed on in unvarying sameness. Morning and evening beheld them employed in the closest industry. But, alas! though they imagined they had learned the science of economy in the country, they had not studied how much more they required of it in London, and every month diminished (independent of their earnings) their little stock, yet barely procured them the necessaries of life. Despair sunk deep into the heart of Mrs. St. Clair, and undermined her health. Rosa too, unaccustomed to a sedentary life, drooped, and as the anguished mother often gazed on her, and felt by her own inward sufferings, she would not long be spared as her guide, she fervently prayed that the Almighty would take her also, rather than she should remain exposed to the evils which might assail her! Alas! hapless Rosa, not so blest was thy fate! Every week now added to the dreariness of their prospect. Mrs. St. Clair grew daily worse, and was now utterly unable to work. In vain Rosa toiled, and endeavoured to conceal the worst from her mother. The

small sum they brought with them, was exhausted, and her industry alone was insufficient to afford the latter those comforts her situation required. They had fortunately paid Mrs. Woodyly, who beheld them with a strict eye, in advance. But term-time was now approaching, and it would be madness in their present situation, to retain such expensive lodgings. Rosa therefore, by her mother's desire, spoke to a young girl who had attended them since their arrival, and who, grateful for the instructions in many little points, her young mistress had afforded her, she thought would exert herself to obtain cheaper accommodations for them.

"Get them my dear Lucy," said Rosa, with a deep sigh, "as reasonable as possible; if you can but obtain a shelter, and a dry room for my mother, it is all will be required."

Lucy burst into tears. "Ah! ma'am, if I thought!"—"If you thought what?" interrupted Rosa, hastily. "Why, if I thought you could put up with such accommodations, my mother has a room....but then it is so poor, and humble; so unfit for such as you; and it is in such a dark dirty lane."

"My good girl!" again interposed Rosa, "it is not slight inconveniences must deter us from removing hence. Our circumstances will not admit a longer stay. Were it not for my poor mother" she added, snatching a glance of agony at the pallid countenance of Mrs. St. Clair, as she slept, "I would not much regret our removal; as your mistress often looks so fiercely on me, that I find it impossible to preserve myself from terror."

"Ah ma'am! she is a hard-hearted wretch," returned Lucy, "I am sure few blessings sweeten her morsel."

"Perhaps we mistake her character," replied Rosa; "but there is no time now to be lost: hasten therefore, to arrange matters with your mother, if she will receive us."

Lucy disappeared; and on her return, it was settled, that they should immediately remove to her mother's, who was to allow them the only unoccupied room in the house, for 8s. 8d. per week. Mrs. Woodyly received their warning with a smile of malignant triumph, and muttered, as she

turned away, "that it was well people, though they were so haughty, could not always ride their high horse." The weakness of Mrs. St. Clair was now so excessive, that Rosa was doubtful, if she could even bear the motion of a carriage; she therefore ordered a sedan chair, and leaning on Lucy's arm, who carried their small wardrobe in a bundle, sick at heart, she tottered after on foot. With ill health, Mrs. St. Clair naturally became splenetic and delicate in her appetite. Devoured by an ever varying sickness, she forgot in her sufferings, the necessity of frugality, and thought she should have every comfort her situation required. When carried up a pair of dark winding stairs, into the room allotted them, she looked around her with a shudder of discontent; while Rosa, totally overcome with fatigue and misery, sunk upon a chair, and burst into tears. She was herself by no means the healthy girl she had been when she came to London. Constant sitting and bad air had made a considerable alteration for the worse; and as she gazed on the feeble form of her mother, and the miserable accommodations she was obliged to put up with, she almost wished to close her eyes for ever, on a prospect which presented nothing but despair and misery.

Lucy had said the room was mean and humble. It was in fact little less than a garret, situated in a lane so confined, that from the windows you might with ease converse with those on the opposite side. From a contemplation of these evils, she was roused, by Lucy reminding her that the chairmen were to pay, and when she had discharged this necessary debt, Rosa, with a heart-broken sigh, found her remaining property consisted of only two solitary guineas. She had, however, the day before she left Mrs. Woody's, obtained a quantity of shirts to make for her employer; she strove to exert herself, and hoped for the best. Lucy now introduced her mother, a decent looking old woman, though the picture of meagre poverty. She addressed them in her own country dialect (broad Scotch) and assured the bonie ladies, "they might be sure she'd doo a'

things to mak them comfortable!" and Lucy, wishing them a tearful good-night, returned to her mistress.

Eight or ten days now passed, on Mrs. St. Clair's part, in sufferings, which seemed to impair every faculty, on Rosa's, in the closest industry, and attention to her mother. Her small purse was almost wholly exhausted in the purchase of little delicacies for the poor invalid, which perhaps, when obtained, her sickly appetite refused; and Rosa, with agony, saw her last half-crown expended on a jelly, which after a few mouthfuls she could not taste. The shirts were, however, nearly completed, and Rosa determined to work all night, that she might convey them home the next day. Mrs. St. Clair, on the following morning was restless and peevish, and expressed a strong desire for some chicken soupe. Rosa heard her with unutterable anguish, for she had not the means of procuring it, and it was the first wish she had yet been obliged to deny her.

With a heart bursting with conflicting emotions, she endeavoured to soothe her with a promise that she should obtain it at night. But the invalid still continued fretful, until the after part of the day, when she sunk into a disturbed but heavy sleep. Rosa's work was completed, and the present, the only moment she could snatch to take it home. She had often been at the milliner's, but Lucy generally accompanied her, and they went in the early part of the day; now it was advanced in the evening and she was alone. She had almost determined to give up her intention till the morning, when a deep groan from her mother seemed to reproach her with selfishness; and snatching Mrs. St. Clair's feeble hand to her lips, she wrapped herself in a long cloak to conceal as much as possible her figure, and with her bundle in her hand, tottered towards the room door, but again she turned to weep and gaze upon her mother! She imagined her countenance looked unusually ghastly. Her spirits felt heavily depressed, and she almost thought that look would be the last she would ever give. On descending the stairs she met Janet

at the foot, bustling to know "how the guid Madam fan hersel:" and terrified at the idea of entering the streets alone, she asked the good creature to accompany her.

"Troth that I wull, an welcome," returned Janet, "though the guid God kens, I wad e'en be o' sma' sarvice, gin onie ane sud meddle to hairm ye!"

To be continued in our next.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the course of my reading, I lately met with the following maxims, extracted from a late French publication, entitled *Maxims and Reflections* on different subjects, both moral and political, by M. de L***. They appear to be founded on an enlightened experience.

A READER.

MAXIMS.

1. Treat Fortune as you would do a bad soil: do not disdain the harvest, however small it may prove.

2. The events foreseen by intelligent minds generally occur: but fortune always reserves two secrets, the epoch and the means.

3. Attracted by novelty, but still the slave of habit, man spends his life in desiring change, and at the same time he is continually sighing after repose.

4. *Ennui* is a malady for which labour is the remedy: pleasure is merely a palliative.

5. Baseness always endeavours to degrade that, which on the part of men is the most noble to confer, and the most pleasant to receive....well-merited praise.

6. Your greatest enemy is not always he to whom you may have done an ill office, for he may be generous: but if you have been offended by a coward, be assured that he will ever attempt your destruction, for he is afraid of your resentment, and fear never pardons.

7. Virtue is the triumph of generosity over interest.

8. Honour is the offspring of courage and of vanity.

9. Listen to counsel and brave criticism.

10. The great difficulty in education consists in keeping children under due submission, without at the same time degrading their characters.

11. The spirit of domination is first disclosed in early infancy, it diminishes during youth, and never returns during old age, but along with its other weaknesses.

12. The self-love of fools is an excuse, but not a justification for that of men of sense.

13. When by any accident, flattery does not succeed, it is not its fault, but that of the flatterer.

14. The pride of men of birth would be the most foolish and insupportable species of vanity, were it not for the pride of upstarts.

15. My good friends, are you sure that ten years hence you will be able to recollect the names of all your present friends?

16. Fear and hope divide life; pleasure and sorrow occupy but a few moments of it.

17. What inconsistency! men are conducted even to death through fear.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

READING the travels of Mr. Townsend, in Spain, the other day, the following passage struck me as forcibly applying to, and as clearly throwing light on the affairs of this country, as well as containing valuable hints on education, that I have copied it out, and send it for insertion to your very useful publication. I leave your readers to make their own comment, and I request them not to do so, without previous and dispassionate reflection. I am your humble servant,

EUMENES.

"When I directed my course towards Salamanca, it was with a view of paying a visit by appointment to the Marquis of Oviedo; but unfortunately for me, when I arrived, I found he was detained by illness at Madrid; this disappointment was the more vexatious because I had no letters, nor any prospect of being introduced. I ventured however to present myself to Doctor Curtis, President of the Irish College, who received me with politeness, took me under his protection, and during my ten days abode at Salamanca considered me as part of his family (the situation is then described, and Mr. T. goes on) The church is in common to both

establishments, and is built upon such a plan as must do credit to the taste, as well as to the wealth of the disgraced community (the Jesuits.) In the Irish College, three score Students are received at a time, and when these are sent back to Ireland, the same number from thence are admitted, to be, like them, trained up for the ministry; their course of education requires eight years. They are expected to come well founded in the languages, and of the time allowed to them in Spain, four years are given up to philosophy, the remainder to divinity. The mode of giving lectures is perhaps peculiar to themselves, but worthy to be followed in our universities. The Students have questions proposed for their discussion twice every day, and on these they are informed what looks to read; then supposing the subject to admit of a dispute, it is carried on by two of them, under the direction of a Moderator, who gives assistance, when it is wanted, and guides them to the truth; where this mode of proceeding is not admissible, the Tutors, instead of giving formal lessons, employ themselves in the examination of their Pupils, and the business of instruction is thus greatly expedited. Dr. Curtis lives with his pupils, like a father with his children, and although in a state of *banishment*, seems happy in the discharge of his important functions. It is however much to be lamented, that he and they should be reduced to the necessity of seeking that protection in a foreign, distant country, to which they are entitled in their own; this kind of persecution is neither just, nor politic; it is certain that ignorance and bigotry have a strong connection.

Would you overcome inveterate prejudices? and are you anxious to banish superstition? let in the light; would you conciliate the affections of those who differ from you in their religious creed? no longer persecute: embrace them, and from enemies, they will become your friends; let in the light, and difference of opinion dies away; Catholics in the more enlightened countries, are no longer papists; their whole system is going to decay; and without claiming more than common sagacity, we may venture to foretel, that in proportion as the

limits of toleration shall be extended, all that cannot bear the light will gradually vanish, till the distinction between Catholic and Protestant shall cease. To hasten this event, the education of Catholics in Ireland for the purpose of the ministry, should not only be connived at, but should meet with all possible encouragement."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the present scarcity of flax-seed it looks as if Hemp could in some cases be substituted in the manufacture of the coarser fabrics, instead of Flax. Last year the Linen-board published a pamphlet on the subject, and as in the present crisis, it has become of still greater importance, we hope some active measures will be speedily adopted by the Board to encourage the sowing of Hemp, and the manufacture of it into linen. In the mean time to give our aid to promote the publicity of the plan, we annex the fore part of their advertisement of last year, and give an Extract from the general view of the agriculture of the County of Suffolk, abridged from their pamphlet. In our next number we expect to resume the subject.

CULTURE OF HEMP.

Linen-board, March 1, 1808.

THE soil best calculated for raising hemp, is rich, loamy land, or bog thoroughly drained, well manured, and covered with lime-stone gravel, clay, or sand; but any soil that is moderately good, and in a proper tilth, will answer beneficially. A crop of potatoes in the year preceding, or rape, or turnips in the year in which the hemp-seed is to be sown, will be found a good preparation. A hemp crop will be found in general to prepare well for wheat.

The time of sowing is from February to the end of April. If the season permits, the farmer should not defer the sowing longer; but, like flax, it may be sown as late as the middle of May. Care should be taken to keep the birds off the land, till the seed vegetates.

The time of pulling is about thirteen weeks from the time of sowing: the leaves turning yellow, and the stalks white, are signs of its maturity for that purpose.

There are two kinds of hemp, male and female. The male is distinguished by a small yellow flower on its head, almost as fine in its nature as dust, which, when ripe, is blown over the field, impregnating the female plants which bear the seed. The distinction of the sex or species may also be known by the different size of the stalk, the female being the grosser of the two. Both kinds may be pulled together, but if it be the intention of the farmer to save the seed, the female hemp, on account of its bearing the seed, must be permitted to remain longer.

MANAGEMENT.

THE crop when pulled is to be water-rotted and set up in stooks or spread on the grass, in the same manner, and for the same time, as flax; the time varying of course, as in the case of flax, with the state of the weather. The female plants pulled late, should be stooked in small bundles in the field, after pulling, for a few days, so as that the seed may harden, and thereby separate easy in the thrashing or rippling; the latter of which is to be preferred, because the stem suffers less in the process.

EXTRACT FROM THE AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF SUFFOLK.

The district of country in which this article of cultivation is chiefly found, extends from Eye to Beccles, spreading to the breadth of about ten miles, which oblong of country may be considered as its head-quarters.

It is in the hands of both farmers and cottagers; but it is very rare to see more than five or six acres in the occupation of any one man. With cottagers, the more common method is, to sow it every year on the same land: there is a piece at Hoxne, which has been under this crop for seventy successive years. The soil preferred is, what is called in the district, *mixed land*, that is, sandy loam, moist and putrid, but without being stiff or tenacious; in one word, the best land the country contains; and does well, as may be supposed, on old meadow, and low bottoms near rivers. They manure for it with great attention; so that it may be taken as a maxim, that hemp is not often sown without

this preparation: of dung and moulds, twenty-five three-horse loads per acre; of dung alone, sixteen loads. This is done directly after wheat sowing is finished.

The tillage consists in three earths, with harrowing sufficient to make the soil perfectly fine; and it is laid flat, with as few furrows as possible.

Time of sowing: from the middle to the end of April; but will bear being sown all May. It is often found that the early sown, yields hemp of the best quality.

Quantity of seed: eleven pecks per acre, at the price of one shilling to two shillings a peck, generally from sixteen to eighteen pence. Much is brought from Downham, and the fens; the seeded hemp is not so good by eighteen pence or two shillings the stone.

No weeding is ever given to it, the hemp destroying every other plant.

It is pulled thirteen or fourteen weeks after sowing; the wetter the season the longer it stands; and it bears a dry year better than a wet one; they make no distinction in pulling between the male and female; or female and seed hemp, as denominated in some places. In the Cambridgeshire fens they are frequently separated, which may arise from their hemp being coarser, and the stalk larger. The price of pulling is one shilling a peck of the seed sown, or eleven shillings an acre, and beer; but if it comes in harvest, the expence is higher. It is tied up in small bundles, called *buits*.

It is always water-retted;* clay pits preferred to any running water,

* Generally; but in a circle, of about six miles round Thiltenham, the greater part is never put into the water at all, but is dew-retted which is done by laying it on pasture ground, for, from three to six weeks, according to the season, and turned five or six times. This process costs about one shilling per stone, per acre, including pulling, spreading, turning, and getting up: and the hemp at market is not worth so much by two shillings per stone, as that which hath been water-retted, and therefore probably the custom of dew-retting is only followed to any considerable degree where there are not pits sufficient to water-ret what grows in a district.

and cleaned out once in seven or eight years. An acre of three small waggon loads are laid in one *bed*. They will water five times in the same hole; but it is thought by some too much. If necessary to wait, they pull as the hole is ready, not choosing to leave it on the land after being pulled.

It is generally four days in the water, if the weather is warm, if not, five; but they examine and judge by feeling it. The expence is twelve to fifteen shillings an acre.

The grassing requires about five weeks; and if there are showers, constantly turned thrice a week; if not, twice a week. This is always on grass land or layers. It is done by women; the expence ten shillings an acre. It is then tied up in large bundles of eight or ten *bails*, and carted home to a barn or house to break directly.

Breaking is done by the stone, at one shilling. There are many people in the district who do it, and earn fifteen or sixteen pence a day, and beer. The oil, called hemp *sheaves*, makes good fuel and sells at two-pence per stone.

It is then marketable, and sold by sample at Dis, Harling, Bungay, &c. price 5s. 6d. to 8s. a stone; generally 7s. 6d. In 1795, 10s. In 1801, 11s.

The buyer heckles it, which is done at 1s. 6d. a stone; he makes it into two or three sorts, *long strike*, *short strike*, and *pull tow*. Women buy it and spin it into yarn, which they carry to market, and sell at prices proportioned to the fineness. This the weaver buys, who converts it into cloth, which is sold at market also. The spinners earn better and more steady wages than by wool: a common hand will do two skeins a day, three of which are a clue, at nine-pence; consequently she earns sixpence a day; and will look to her family and do half a clue.

The fabrics wrought in this county from their own hemp, have great merit. They make it to 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. a yard, yard wide, for shirts; and I was shown sheets and table linen, now quite good, after twenty years wear. Huckabacks for table linen, 13d. to 7s. a yard, ell wide.

The produce of an acre may, on an average, be reckoned forty-five stone, at 7s. 6d. Some crops rise to fifty-five, and even more; and there are bad ones so low as twenty-five. If sold on the ground as it stands, generally one shilling a rod, or 8l. an acre.

The common method is to sow turnips on the land immediately after the hemp is cleared: this is for producing, among the little occupiers, some food for a cow and the family. With good management, one ploughing and one hoeing will carry them to the value of 30s. But an evil arising from the practice is, that the land must for the next crop, be mucked in the spring, when carting does more damage. When grain is sown after the hemp, it is wheat; and these are the best crops in the country, as nothing is esteemed to clean land like this plant. After the wheat, barley, or oats; and this great also.

Finding the profit so great, I demanded why the culture did not increase rapidly? I was answered that its coming in the midst of harvest was embarrassing, and that the attention it demanded in every stage of its progress was great; being liable to be spoiled if the utmost care was not perpetual.

It is considered, and with great justice, throughout the district, to be of infinite consequence to the country; and especially to the poor, who are entirely supported by it, and are now earning six-pence a day by spinning, with more ease than three-pence is gained on the other side of the county by wool.

The culture has increased considerably in the last ten years.

A manufacturer at Stowmarket, thus communicates to me on this subject, from whose account it appears that there are variations:—"Hemp may be grown with success, on the same land, many years, by manuring annually. The quantity of seed usually sown, is from nine to twelve pecks per acre; varying with the strength of the soil, and the custom of the country. In those places where the finest and best hems are grown, twelve pecks is a common quantity.

"The soil and season make a very

material difference in the produce and quality. An acre will produce from 25 to 60 stone; an average crop may be estimated about 36 or 38.

"Hemp, when left for seed, is seldom water-retted, from the additional trouble and expense; but I am of opinion, it would be better if so done. It is generally stacked and covered during the winter, and is spread upon meadow-land in January or February. If the season suits (particularly if covered with snow) it will come to a good colour, and make strong coarse cloths. It is much inferior to hemp pulled in proper time and water-retted.

"The custom of some places is to dew-ret their hemp; that is to spread it on meadow-land as soon as pulled, and turned frequently; but this is a very bad method or retting it; the bark will not come off completely—it therefore requires more violent means of bleaching the yarn, and consequently diminishes the strength. It is likewise much sooner injured in rainy seasons than hemp water retted: water-retting is performed by binding the hemp in small bunches, with the under-hemp, when pulled, and as soon as may be placed in rows crossing each other in the water, and immersed. Stagnant water is deemed the best: it requires four, five, or six days steeping, till the outside coat easily rubs off, and is then spread on meadow land, and turned frequently until finished. The same water will not be proper for receiving hemp more than three times in a season, and the first water always produces the best colour, in the least time.

"But I do not pretend to give exact directions for managing hemp; it can only be acquired by practice. When the hemp is retted, it is bound up in sheaves or large bunches, and with a machine called a brake, the cambuck is broken in pieces, and with a swingle is cleared from the small remaining pieces of the cambuck, and then bound up in stones. In Suffolk 14½ pounds of hemp are deemed a stone. The hemp which breaks off in the operation, and called shorts, is bound up by itself, and is about half the value of the long hemp.

"The price of breaking hemp varies

with the length, and the ease or difficulty with which the cambuck separates from it: from 12d. to 18 or 20d. is paid; 12d. and 14d. are the common prices. The refuse is only fit for burning, and is sold from one penny to two-pence per sack.

"I have been informed that there are mills erected for breaking flax; and as the mode of breaking is similar, I imagine they might be applied to hemp.

"When the hemp is broken it is fit for market, and is purchased by hecklers. Dis, Harleston, and Halesworth, are considerable markets for hemp; but the greatest quantity is sold to neighbouring hecklers, without carrying to market.

"The prices vary very much: dew-ret hemp sells from 1s. to 18d. or 2s. lower than water-ret. The present price of the best water-ret is about 8. 6d. per stone: this price is very high. Dew-ret hemp is proper for coarse yarns only: and if that were made from water-retted hemp, it would be stronger and of a better colour.

"The first operation of the heckler, is bunching or beating the hemp; this was formerly, and is still, in some places, done by hand; but in Suffolk, is now always done by a mill, which lifts up two, and sometimes three heavy beaters alternately, that play upon the hemp, while it is turned round by a man or boy to receive the beating regularly. This mill is sometimes wrought by a horse, and sometimes by water; but I think a machine might be contrived to save the expense of either. In this I may be mistaken.

"The time requisite for beating the hemp, varies according to the quality of it, and the purposes it is intended for; the finer the tow is intended to be, the more beating the hemp requires. When bunched it is dressed or combed by drawing it through heckles, resembling wool-comber's tools, only fixed. The prices paid the heckler vary in different places, and with the different degrees of fineness to which it is dressed, from three farthings to two-pence per pound is paid; and the earnings are from 15d. or 16d. to 2s. per day.

"In the hemp trade there are no fixed rules for combing, as in the wool trade. The same hemp is dressed finer or coarser, to suit the demands of the purchasers. It is sometimes divided into two or three sorts of tow, and sometimes the whole is worked together for one sort.—The prices of tow vary, from about 6d. to 18d. per pound.

"The heckler either sells the tow to spinners and to weavers, or puts it out to spin himself, and sells the yarn to the weavers. The prices of spinning vary with the fineness of the yarn:

1 clue from a pound is worth	d.	d.
spinning, about . . .	7	or 6½
1½ clue from a pound, . . .	8½	or 8
2 clues from a pound, . . .	9½	or 9
2½ clues from a pound, . . .	10½	or 10
3 clues from a pound, . . .	12	0

"The spinners who buy the tow, sell their yarn to neighbouring weavers, or at the nearest market. The yarn is reeled in many places:—2 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads, 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 3 skeins, 1 clue, 4800 yards: in others—3 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 2 skeins, 1 clue, 4800 yards. The former is the most convenient method for the bleacher and weaver.

"Weavers, in general, purchase their yarn from spinners in the neighbourhood, or at markets, and deliver it to the whiter, as he is commonly called, who returns it, bleached, to the weaver; receiving 20 or 21 for bleaching 120 clues.

"Bleaching the yarn is performed by laying it in large tubs, covered with thick cloths, upon which ashes are placed; and pouring hot water daily through it, turning the yarn frequently, until the bark comes off. It is then rendered whiter, by spreading it on poles in the air. This is a difficult part of the business; the art consisting in procuring the best colour with the least diminution of strength.

"Weaving is, in general, conducted in the manner I have stated: that is, by purchasing the yarn at market, and after bleaching, making it into cloth of various degrees of fineness and breadth. The breadths are half-ell; three quarters wide; three quarters and a nail; seven-eighths and yard-wide

sheeting; yard-wide; seven yards one-eighth wide; and ell-wide. Prices from 10d. per yard, half-ell-wide, to 4s. or 4s. 6d. ell-wide.

"Exceeding good huckaback is also made from hemp for towels and common table-cloths. The low priced hems are a general wear for husbandmen, servants, and labouring manufacturers; the sorts from 18d. to 2s. per yard, are the usual wear of farmers and tradesmen; the finer sorts, seven-eighths wide, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per yard, are preferred by many gentlemen, for strength and warmth, to other linen.

"The largest quantity of hemp is sold as it comes from the loom, and bleached by the purchasers; but some quantity is bleached, ready for weaving, either by the weaver or by a whiter: this is done by boiling it in lye (made from ashes) and frequently spreading it on the grass till it is white.

"Many weavers vend their cloths entirely by retail, in their neighbourhood; others to shopkeepers, principally in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and in part of Essex; and others at Dis, where there is a hall for the sale of hemp cloth, once a week; and at Norwich, where there is a street occupied by weavers, from different parts of the country, who have shops in it.

"The earnings of the journeyman weaver vary considerably, from the season; frosty, windy, and very dry weather being unfavourable; and they vary also, from the great difference in skill, and the quality of the materials to work upon: they may earn from about 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day; in extra cases, more.

"I think, Sir, you will perceive, from the statement I have given of the manner in which the hemp trade is conducted, the difficulty of ascertaining with any certainty, the profits arising from an acre of hemp converted into cloth.

"The hemp manufacture cannot rival that of flax, in fineness; nor is it desirable:—in colour it is by no means deficient, and possesses this advantage over Irish and all other linens, that its colour improves in wearing, while theirs declines. But the article in

which English hemp, properly manufactured stands unrivalled, is the strength;—flax will not bear the least comparison with it, in this respect; and I can assert, from experience, that it is far superior in strength to Russian—the strongest known hemp next to the English.

“The necessity of keeping up the quality of the cloths, should be strongly impressed on the weavers; perhaps if premiums were given for the best manufactured hemp cloths, it might be serviceable under proper regulations. I think the public would be found very much disposed to encourage a strong manufacture of cloth; and there are facts which induce me to think so.

“Considerable quantities of Russian sheeting are sold in England, merely for their strength; as they are coarser at the price than any other foreign linen.


“Suffolk hemp if known, would always be preferred, being stronger than Russian, from the quality of the thread, and at the same time, lighter in washing; which is often an objection to Russian.

“You inquire if Suffolk hemp is used for ropes? I believe, never. It is too fine and dear, and sacking is principally made from Russian Hemp, although the offal of English is sometimes used.”

The Rev. Mr. Mills, of Bury, also writes thus:—“Hemp delights in a black, rich mould, the richer and stronger it is the better. It has sometimes been sown upon the breaking up of an old lay, and where there has been sufficient depth, with success. Let the land be well worked and manured with 30 loads per acre, about a fortnight before seed-time, which is from the beginning to the end of April: if sown earlier, as the plants are almost as tender as French beans, the frosts would greatly injure, if not totally destroy them; the sooner (the season permitting) it is sown the better, though it has been sometimes deferred till the 15th of May. Three bushels and a half of good bright seed are sufficient for an acre, which should be gently and lightly harrowed in.—The birds must be kept off the land till the plants appear; the time

of pulling is about the beginning of August, or more properly speaking, thirteen weeks from the time of sowing: the leaves turning yellow and the stalks white, are signs of its maturity; the male and female hemp are pulled together: indeed, when the crop is thick, it is impossible to separate them. The expense of pulling is generally estimated at one shilling per peck, according to the quantity originally sown.

“When it is all taken up and bound in small bundles, with bands at each end, to such a bigness as you can grasp with both hands, it is conveyed to the pond of standing water (if a clay-pit, the better) where it is laid bundle upon bundle, direct and across

thus,  this is termed a bed of

hemp, and after it is piled to such a thickness as to answer the depth of the water (which cannot be too deep)* it is loaded with blocks and logs of wood, until all of it is totally immersed: after remaining in this state four or five days, as the weather shall direct, it is taken out and carried to a field of aftermath, or any other grass that is clean and free from cattle; the bundles being untied, it is spread out thin, stalk by stalk; in this state it must be turned every other day, especially in moist weather, lest the worms should injure it; thus it remains for six weeks or more; then it is gathered together, tied in large bundles, and kept dry† in a house till December or January, when the stalks are broken and the bark wholly freed from them, by an instrument called a breaker. The art of breaking it, by a labourer of common capacity, would be learned in a few hours, and the awing of it, which follows, requiring some sleight as well as labour, though more difficult, might in

*“This deserves experimental inquiry, watering hemp is a partial rotting, through fermentation; the vicinity of the atmosphere must for that purpose be necessary. The best hemp ponds I have seen, have not exceeded the depth of six feet.”

† it might do as well stacked, if kept perfectly dry.

a little longer time be acquired. After breaking and swingling, it is sent to the heckler and hemp dresser, to be prepared for spinning, according to the fineness desired.

"Should the hemp stand for seed, the yarn of it will never be so white, as it is not watered, but only spread on the grass for the benefit of the dews; it will not be improper to observe in this case, after it is tied in bundles it is set up like wheat in shocks, till the seed will freely shed, and then threshed out.

"As you requested, I inquired, if a rich sand would answer for the cultivation of hemp; and whether wheat might be sown after it. Both these questions were answered in the negative.*

The reason assigned against the wheat was, the richness of the land would make it run to straw. Oats is the general crop, after hemp.—Turnips sown immediately after it, have answered tolerably well."

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ON the arrival of the Belfast Almanack, for the year 1809 at this place, I purchased one, as I generally do, being conscious of the utility of such publications. Celestial phenomena, viz. Solar and Lunar Eclipses, Moon's Phases, &c. were the object of my first perusal, by which I found that on the 29th and 30th days of April next, there will be a Lunar eclipse. A few days ago I was in company with a gentleman who was passing through this town, who had a copy of the *Gentleman's Almanack*. On looking over it, I saw that on the 29th and 30th days of April next there will be a Solar eclipse, not a Lunar, as stated in the Belfast Almanack. If some of your Astronomical cor-

* It is common to sow wheat after hemp in various parts of this kingdom, and also in France; and it is reckoned one of the best preparations for that grain; but upon a rich black mould, the observation of this gentleman is probably very just. I have seen very fine hemp on good sands. A. Y.

respondents would be so kind as to let me know if either, or which, of the Almanacks is correct, they would oblige

INQUIRER.

Cushendall, February 20, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ON receiving your Magazine for January, I was much surprized on seeing such a gross error, as appears in printing my account of Carrickfergus; namely, such a large portion left out entirely. Supposing it to have been lost, I send you the part that is left out, hoping you will insert it in your Magazine for February.

S. M. S.

The following should precede the article in p. 24, of last No.

Three miles north of the town, is a large lake of fresh water, called Lough-morn, about a mile and a quarter long, and upwards of half a mile broad; very little water runs into it, but a stream runs out, which turns a cotton mill;* its water is supposed to be formed by a large spring near its centre, as there is no appearance of any near its margin. The water is very pure and is well stored with pike and eels of a large size. Near this has been lately built a Meeting-house, belonging to that sect of Dissenters called Covenanters, or Mountain-men. Two miles West of this lough,† on the top of a hill

* Besides the above-mentioned stream, about a mile from this lough, towards the town, at a place called Sulla-tober is a very large spring of water, which turns a cotton-mill in the driest season; it is supposed to be a part of the water of this lough, which has a subterraneous passage thither.

† Concerning its Origin there is the following absurd tradition: That it was once a large town, when one evening an old man came into it seeking a lodging, and being refused by several people he said "although it was a town then, it would be a lough ere morn." He instantly left the town and retired to an adjacent hill; the people were soon alarmed by the ground shaking, and eels rising about the hearth-stones! when lo! in an instant the town sunk to rise no more; and it has since been called Lough-morn.

called Slieve-true, is one of these cairns of stones which are found in Ireland, and the northern* countries. These stones have no regular form, but are a confused heap; they are commonly believed to be funeral piles of the dead. About a mile N. E. from hence is a cairn similar to the above, called Caimnancale. Adjoining Slieve-true is the Ree-hill where a horse-market

* Dr. Johnson speaks of some of these cairns in his journey to the Western isles; and concludes they were funeral monuments of the dead. Mr. John Bell (of Anternony) also says; "In the northern extremity of Siberia, about 8 or 10 days journey from Tomsky, there is a plain containing the tombs of several heroes who perished in combat. They may be easily distinguished by heaps of earth and stones with which they are covered." The cairns in this Kingdom are said to have been erected by the Ostmen, or Danes.

and race are held each Christmas-day; the country people resorting hither to taste the pleasures of the turf. The soil here is mostly covered with heath and moss, among which are found the bed-grouse or moor-cock; plover are also found below in the marshes. About two miles from the town, near the road leading to Ballyclare are two very romantic cascades, they are both situated in delightful dells, on the....

The second part of the description of Curriekfergus was printed verbatim from the copy sent to the publishers, with the exception of two or three words at the beginning, where the connection between the parts was evidently incomplete; the omission which has occurred cannot therefore be imputable to the Magazine, but must have arisen from some part of the Manuscript having been mislaid, or lost in the carriage to Belfast. EDIT.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM HAWES, M.D.

One of the chief promoters of the Royal Humane Society, for the restoration of suspended respiration, with some account of that benevolent Institution.

IN a warlike age, when the praise of the military hero occupies so much of public attention, both in conversation and writing, it may be useful to step aside and contemplate the characters of the benefactor of mankind, who seek to found their fame on promoting the happiness of their fellow-men, and with a noble enthusiasm, not well understood, nor duly appreciated in this selfish age, make good their claims to the truly honourable distinction of the *civic* wreath.

William Hawes was born at Islington, of respectable parents, on November 28th, 1736. After receiving his education at St. Paul's School, he went as an apprentice in the year 1751, to Mr. Corson, an eminent apothecary at Lambeth. On the termination of his apprenticeship he attended with great diligence the lectures given at the hospital, and by the dif-

ferent lecturers of the time. His favourite lecturer was the late Dr. George Fordyce, and on whom he attended for some time after he entered into business, living in his immediate neighbourhood. In 1759 he settled as an apothecary in the Strand; here he practised for many years, with considerable success to his patients and himself.

In the spring of 1774, Mr. Hawes published his "account of the late Dr. Goldsmith's illness, so far as it relates to the exhibition of Dr. James' Powder, together with remarks on the use and abuse of that powerful medicine, in the beginning of acute disease." Dr. Goldsmith was his intimate friend. Mr. Hawes' only motive in this publication appears to have been the wish of being serviceable to others, and to prevent men, if possible, from destroying their own lives by the injudicious use of strong, and, what are called infallible remedies. "If the desire I have (he observes) to warn mankind against the fatal effects produced by the indiscriminate exhibition of various potent medicines has betrayed me into an improper warmth of expression,

I hope to stand excused by the humane and sensible part of the public, when it is considered that the preservation of the lives of my fellow creatures was my principal inducement to it." He acknowledges, however, with the greatest candour, that much good has arisen from the proper and skilful exhibition of Dr. James' Powder, in many cases of fever, but declares that he has also seen several cases in which it has proved highly injurious. In an advertisement to a fourth edition of this account, he remarks, "It is not my disposition to be uncandid, nor my wish to injure the circumstances of any man, but whatsoever, in the form of medicine appears likely to produce a public injury, I am determined to expose. I have made quacks of all denominations my sworn enemies, but what medical man of honour and reputation would wish to be upon tolerable terms with the murderers of the human race?"

It may not be an unsuitable digression in this place, to notice the proneness to credulity, as exemplified in the extensive sale of quack medicines, which, since the days of Dr. Goldsmith, have increased in an astonishing degree. Dr. Goldsmith's death was supposed to be occasioned by taking Dr. James' Powders, a medicine which under judicious administration, has been found to be serviceable, but like all other potent medicines, may prove injurious in unskilful hands. But in later times we have seen men rise to eminence and wealth by the grossest impositions on public credulity. Dr. John Fothergill in his works had to caution against a quack medicine sold under his name, and we still see the imposition continued by advertisements in the news-papers, of Fothergill's Essence of Vipers, with a puff of its virtues, and claiming with evident falsehood, the sanction of his name. Dr. Brodum, of London, and Dr. Solomon, of Liverpool, continue to obtrude their nostrums and to offend the eye of delicacy by their puffing advertisements; the continuance of which, from time to time, prove the extent of their imposition, and the cullibility of the public. Ignorance is the mother of credulity.

A few medical maxims extremely

simple, and of easy comprehension, would, if duly considered, remove this prejudice of the public mind, in favour of quack medicines.

Medicines to be really useful, must possess a considerable degree of potency, and if this power is unduly applied, it may produce much mischief. Hence we may see the absurdity of the phrase so often thoughtlessly used, "such an article is simple, if it does no good, it can do no harm." If it really be of this nature, it is probably equally incapable of doing good or harm, but too often it may not prove as innocent as suspected, but possess the power of doing much injury. A second maxim is, that no medicine can be suitable for every disease, combined as diseases frequently are with each other, and diversified as the temperaments and constitutions of mankind are, so that what may be suitable under certain circumstances, may under those of an opposite tendency be totally unfit. But quack medicines are indiscriminately applied to all, and doubtless they produce many hurtful consequences on the constitutions of the dupes, who so thoughtlessly use them.

We now come to notice the commencement of a society, which has been productive of much good, and in which the Doctor eminently and virtuously distinguished himself. It is to be remarked that in 1776 he received his diploma of M.D.

In the year 1767 a Society was instituted at Amsterdam for the recovery of the drowned, in consequence of some instances of recovery which had been happily effected a short time before in Switzerland. Memoirs of this Society were published, and a copy of them brought from Holland by Dr. Cogan; these he translated in 1773, in order to show to the British public the practicability of recovering persons who had hitherto been considered as dead, in consequence of being taken out of the water with every appearance of death. These Memoirs were no sooner translated, than they engaged the benevolent and humane mind of Mr. Hawes. He immediately advertised that he would pay rewards to those who would acquaint him, within a certain time,

of any person who had been drowned in his neighbourhood. This he did till the Society was established in the following year; and certainly he could not have given a more sincere or disinterested proof of his wish to promote so valuable and benevolent an object. In the summer of 1774 an association of thirty gentlemen, one half of whom were the friends of Dr. Cogan, and the other of Mr. Hawes, formed themselves into a society, whose object, like that of Amsterdam, was to promote the recovery of persons who were apparently dead by drowning; and like that society also, their views were at first confined to the recovery of drowned. Other respectable names were soon added to the list; and successful cases began to increase its numbers and reputation. Dr. Cogan during his continuance in England prepared the reports of the society, from year to year; that he did it with judgment, would be unnecessary to say, as he can do nothing but with the hand of a master. During this time Mr. Hawes was most zealously active in promoting the views of the infant Institution; but his wish to promote the welfare and happiness of others was not limited or confined to one point.

In the autumn of 1776, he gave his first course of lectures on suspended animation. The Doctor's object in delivering these lectures was to excite an investigation of the subject in all its branches, and particularly to lead the minds of medical students to it, and to induce them to examine into, and pay the most minute attention to all the received signs of life, in cases of suspended animation, whether from drowning, suffocation by the cord, syncope, inebriation, or trance, from noxious vapours, intense cold, and even lightning. These lectures were continued for several years, and answered the very valuable purpose of turning the attention of many of his hearers to this benevolent, novel and interesting subject. In 1777, the Doctor first published his "Address to the public, on premature death and premature interment." At a considerable expense he distributed seven thousand of his address in the course of a few months. He also offered the reward

of one guinea to any nurse or other attendant on any child or grown person returning to life by their humane attention, provided the fact was ascertained by a gentleman of the faculty, or attested by three credible persons. The Doctor asserts, and no one who knew him can doubt it, that his view in incurring such heavy expenses was the hope of exciting an universal attention to the subject of so much importance to mankind. Sometime in the year 1778 a more active post in the management of the affairs of the Humane Society devolved on him, by his being chosen register. This was still increased in the year 1780, when Doctor Cogan returned to Holland. On that event Doctor Hawes greatly regretted the loss of so able a colleague, and laments that the task of arranging and preparing the annual reports of the society should have "fallen into hands of such inferior ability;" but hopes that his zeal will compensate for the want of ability, that the important cause then intrusted to his sole care might not be permitted to languish. Those only who have witnessed the labour and fatigue which the multiplied concerns of the society necessarily impose on him who is intrusted with the entire direction of them, can justly appreciate the value and extent of his unceasing exertions for promoting a cause so near his heart, and with which his own happiness, as well as the happiness of others was interwoven. The Doctor remarks, that soon after this time the execution of the reports of this institution became more complex and intricate. As the instances of resuscitation multiplied, he observes that new and improved modes of treatment suggested themselves to skilful practitioners, and that other species of apparent death than those hitherto treated, were also brought within the reach of art. These circumstances arising from the liberal spirit and unexampled fervour manifested by the medical assistants, in the prosecution of their life saving views, concurring to render the task operose and complicated. But he adds, all these difficulties sunk before the pleasing contemplation of the immense good that would result to mankind from it. In 1781, Doctor Hawes published

"an address to the king and parliament of Great Britain, on preserving the lives of the inhabitants, and on regulating the bills of mortality."

About ten years ago, Dr. Letson, who had succeeded Mr. Horsfall as treasurer of the Humane Society, resigned, and Dr. Hawes was chosen as his successor. He had previously discharged that part of the treasurer's office which consists in examining into the claims for rewards and paying them. He therefore still continued his laborious exertions for supporting and extending the influence of the institution, which he had fostered with all the attention, assiduity, and interest of a parent.

Indeed, a man of less ardour, or zeal, or activity, must have failed in raising to that degree of eminence, which it now possesses, the Humane Society of London. The tide of prejudice, for many years, ran very strong against a set of men who presumed or pretended to bring the dead to life. In other institutions, the subscribers have the means of affording relief to some sick or distressed neighbours, or have something to dispose of, some good they can personally confer, but in this institution, there is nothing of the kind; which has been an obstacle to its establishment. Its patrons and promoters have, it is true, the Godlike satisfaction of knowing they contribute towards preserving the lives of many of their fellow creatures from premature death. They have a gratification too of a very superior kind, afforded them at the anniversary festival: they see men, women and children, whom they have contributed to rescue from an untimely death, walk in solemn and silent procession, expressing as they pass, their gratitude to God and to their benefactors. This is one of the most interesting and affecting scenes a man of feeling can witness; and it seldom fails to cause the tear of sympathy to steal down the cheeks of the spectators. It certainly required all the energy and undeviating perseverance of Dr. Hawes, to place this institution, in opposition to numerous difficulties, in that state of respectability and permanence in which he has left it, and to which such a cause is justly entitled. To

the same zeal for saving the lives of his fellow creatures, must we attribute his uniform attention to the establishment of similar societies in numerous towns of the united kingdom, and in various parts of Europe, America, and India.

The mind of Dr. Hawes was uniformly and ardently employed in the general cause of humanity. His views of beneficence were by no means confined to the object connected with the institution of which he was the zealous advocate, and unwearied promoter. He did not suffer his exertions to abate, because he could not succeed in the first, second, or third attempt; but persevered with uncommon ardour till he could obtain the object he wished to promote for the good of others.

He also published an *Examination of Wesley's Primitive Physic*, a work full of the grossest absurdities, and the most dangerous remedies, and which were likely to be destructive of the lives of many of those, over whom the name of Wesley had influence. This examination which passed through three large editions, it is believed has been very serviceable in promoting the humane and disinterested views of its author.

Numerous are the instances of his anonymous appeals to the public liberality for the relief of virtuous indigence, or unavoidable misery. In the year 1793, the introduction of the general use of cottons instead of silk, having occasioned, as was to be expected, a want of employment to the weavers of silk in Spitalfields, a great deal of disease, distress and positive want were the consequences. Dr. Hawes in his capacity of Physician to the London Dispensary, witnessed them with real anguish of mind, and lamented his own inability to afford relief. He made several appeals to the public, at length he became happily instrumental in preserving from absolute ruin nearly twelve hundred families. The following letter to a clergyman, is one among a great many, which his humane and benevolent mind dictated on the occasion, and which is inserted here as well to exhibit the benevolent views of the writer, as to show, that notwithstanding the great

wealth of England, misery in a very eminent degree is an inmate in many of the dwellings of the poor; and in London, that great mart of the world, extremes of luxury and wretchedness meet. The miseries and vices of St. Giles, and Spitalfields, are *strongly contrasted* with the luxury, and no less flagrant vices of Bedford-square, and Lambdown place.

"Reverend Sir,

"Permit me to address you, on the present occasion, and to return you my most sincere thanks for your voluntary exertions in behalf of the distressed weavers. Believe, Sir, it is not in the power of language to describe their long and continued miseries; miseries not brought on by idleness, intemperance, or a dissolute course of life; human wretchedness, absolutely produced by want of employment. My profession obliges me daily to be an eye-witness to the severe distresses, trials, and afflictions of these much to be pitied of our fellow creatures, whole families without fire, without raiment, and without food, and to add to the catalogue of human woes, three, four, and five in many families languishing on the bed of sickness. I am sure, Sir, you will believe me when I declare that such scenes of complicated woe are too affecting to dwell upon, and therefore shall conclude with my most earnest wishes, that by your pleading in their behalf, other divines may be animated to the same pious undertaking; I am certain that public benevolence will prevent the premature death of many, will restore health to numbers, and afford the staff of life to thousands of afflicted families. I am, reverend Sir, Your most obedient

Humble servant, W. HAWES.
Physician to the London Dispensary."
Spital Square, Nov. 16, 1793.

No man could be more alive to distress of every kind than Dr. Hawes, and to a great variety of which he was constant witness in his attendance on the poor, as physician of the London and Surrey Dispensaries. In many cases he found them more in want of raiment than medicine; having seen them what was necessary he would afford them the means of procuring this nourishment, and hasten them to prevent their overwhelm-

ing him with their gratitude. Instances, too, have frequently occurred of his overtaking persons in the street, whom he knew to be in great want of his taking his hand from his pocket and putting the means of relief into their hand, and passing quickly on. The instances of his benevolence, humanity, and real charity must have been numerous; for many of those which are known, have been incidentally discovered. It was truly said of him in the *Morning Chronicle*, a day or two after his death, that he was a man of whom it may with the greatest truth be asserted, that his only failing arose from an overflow of the milk of human kindness; that he was open and unsuspecting as noon-day; that his heart was always in his hand, and his benevolence unbounded; and that the tears and regrets of thousands would follow him to the grave, with the consolatory reflection that he is gone to receive the reward of a well-spent, active, useful, and virtuous life. As a friend he was sincere, and without the least reserve. In him was no guile. To his family he was the affectionate friend, and indulgent father, and by whom he was most deservedly and tenderly beloved. His highest gratification was to see those around him happy, and to contribute by every means in his power to promote their pleasures and comfort. His manners were kind and conciliating; his temper frank, generous, and uncommonly cheerful. On the evening of Sunday, November the 6th, 1808, he was attacked with a very painful disease, which, though the skill and attention of Messrs. Cline and Addington succeeded in mitigating, they could not remove. During this severe illness, his patience, composure, and resignation, were truly exemplary. The activity of his mind continued with him to the last, and to the last moment he was sensible. On Monday morning, December 5, he was at six o'clock, remarking on something that was passing; at a quarter past six, he gently closed his eyes on this life, with a look of affection and tenderness to those of his family who were then surrounding him. He was buried at Islington, on Tuesday December 13. Three mourning coaches, filled with his

relatives, and a few of his most intimate friends attended him to the grave. To these were unexpectedly added, in the square, seven other mourning coaches, filled with those friends who were desirous of thus publicly manifesting their esteem for him, and accompanying him to his last abode in this world. The church was filled, and the sorrow for the loss of such a man was abundantly visible.

To the foregoing account which is partly extracted from the London Monthly Magazine, with additional observations, we subjoin his character as summed up by a correspondent of the Athenæum.

"He was a signal instance of the good that may be done by a man whose heart is set upon it. He was indefatigable in the execution of his designs, and they were always designs of public utility or private beneficence. He employed much time laboriously and usefully which the greater part of mankind spend in sleep. During the whole of his life he was in his study by five o'clock in the morning, and sometimes as early as four. His frame was not robust, but he was upon the whole blessed with good health, it was the reward of exercise and temperance.

In the important affair of resuscitating the apparently dead, it is in the recollection of a few and but few, that he experienced a good deal of opposition and ridicule. Less perseverance and ardour than he possessed, would not have surmounted the difficulties with which he had to contend.

Though the Humane Society was the object of his particular affection and unceasing solicitude, he was not regardless of other charitable Institutions, to most of which (in the metropolis) he was a contributor. But his private benefactions far exceeded those that were public.

The poor of the two Dispensaries to which he was physician, found in him the kindest friend. He frequently discovered that they wanted nourishment rather than medicine and very largely did he relieve their want. His custom was to order a butcher, baker, or publican, who lived near the patient, to send in meat, bread, or porter, at stated times. By

this means he knew that the poor people really had that which would benefit them. Thus did he restore many whom medical science could never have relieved.

To crown all, he was disinterested beyond any man that I ever knew."

More profit may be reaped from the contemplation of such a character, than from reading the lives of the most renowned warriors of antient or modern times. These dazzle with the false glare of ideal honour. The other diffuses a steady light to conduct "the way-worn traveller" to the heights of virtue, and to exhibit human nature in the most amiable point of view. "Go thou and do likewise," is the instructive lesson communicated by the perusal of such a life. Let us cherish the hope that the day will come when the laurels of the warrior will be viewed with abhorrence, but the unassuming wreath of virtuous exertion will bloom with immortal verdure.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF JOS. DOMBEY,
TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF
M. DELEUZE.

Concluded from Page 32, No. VI.

HAVING amassed a considerable collection from Chili, and received the honours he merited, Dombey returned to Lima, with the intention of sailing for Europe. But his great reputation had again excited an envious disposition towards him, and injurious reports had been spread that he carried on an illicit correspondence with the English. And so far did these calumnies prevail, that when he went with his companions to the house of the visitor general, this officer was so much prejudiced against him that he thought proper to receive him with contempt and insult. Dombey, whom no power could frighten, replied in a calm tone, "I would not put up with your insults if I were only a common traveller."—"And what would you have done?"—"I should have already pierced you to the heart; but, as I go to the king of France, to give him an account of your proceedings, and to obtain justice, it behoves me in the mean time to remain quiet." So saying, he left the house. The visitor, having been better informed, thought it his duty to endeavour to repair

these wrongs. Accordingly, he sent again for the man he had so unjustly outraged, and in the presence of a large assembly, assured him of the regret his former conduct had occasioned, and of the sincerity of his esteem, begging him to inform the viceroy of the reparation he had thus made him.

During the time Dombey waited the sailing of the vessel, which was to convey him to France, he occupied himself assiduously in putting his collection in order. He packed the whole with the greatest care in seventy-three cases, which cost him 18,000 livres. At this time he was so ill, that he had very little hope of revisiting his native country; but the fear of death affected him much less than the idea that his collection might be lost. He sent to M. Thouin a catalogue of the contents of the cases, requesting that if they should arrive at Cadiz without him, he would procure a commission from the king of France, to go there to receive them. "If the cases," says he, "should be opened in your absence, every thing will be deranged. My manuscripts are in a box by themselves. You will dispose of all for the benefit of my country."—He recovered, however, and sailed with his collection on board the *Peruano*, commanded by M. J. de Echinque, on the 14th of April 1784. Their voyage was prosperous as far as fifty degrees S. L.; but as they approached Cape Horn the wind was contrary, and the sea so boisterous, that the ship was dismantled, and sustained otherwise so much damage, that it took a month to run ten degrees. The crew were overcome with fatigue and benumbed with cold; thirty-two of them had already perished, and seventy-three were on the sick list. It was necessary to repair the ship, and divers were wanting to stop the leaks; but the dejected sailors had not the resolution to submerge themselves under the water in so cold a season. Dombey seeing the general danger offered a premium of 1500 livres to the first who should throw himself into the sea. Animated by the hope of this reward twelve sailors offered themselves. The danger of sinking was now removed, though the ship was still ungovernable; and a breeze springing up from the

south, they arrived at Rio Janeiro on the 4th of August. Here they were obliged to remain four months to refit. Dombey, expecting to proceed direct to Europe, was not prepared for this stay, having brought with him no letter of recommendation. His reputation had however preceded him. The fame of what he had done at Huanuco and at La Concepcion had reached Brazil. The viceroy Vasconcellos, informed of Dombey's arrival, sent a carriage for him, loaded him with marks of distinction, and taking him to his country-seat, showed him a fine collection of dried birds, insects, and butterflies, of which the viceroy insisted upon his choosing enough to fill a chest. For this very handsome present, Dombey gave the person who brought it a thousand livres, little suspecting that the whole would be broken to pieces at Cadiz by the inspecting officers.

The rainy season not permitting any long botanical excursions, he collected only about two hundred new plants at Rio Janeiro; but he procured there seeds of a species of *Walteria*, of which the inhabitants make very good cordage; butterflies, which still are the most beautiful among those admired in the galleries of the museum; a valuable sapphire; topazes of two colours; and a magnificent ague-marine, the size of a pigeon's egg, for which he paid 1500 livres.

He took leave of the viceroy at the end of November, 1784, when he again received the most flattering proofs of his esteem, and arrived in the port of Cadiz on the 22d of February 1785. In spite of the extreme delicacy of his health, he was overcome with joy at the near prospect of the moment when he should offer to his country the fruits of his voyage, little suspecting that this would prove the commencement of his misfortunes.

The collection made by MM. Ruiz and Pavon, who had been ordered to remain in America, together with the duplicates which Dombey had designed for the king of Spain, had been embarked on board the *San Pedro de Alcantara*. The ship separated in the storm, and never reached her destination. The whole collection on

board the *Peruano* belonged to the king of France, as the captain's receipt acknowledged*. Dombey expected that his collection, being addressed to the minister of foreign affairs in France, would be freed from all visits of the custom-house officers. For, could it be suspected that prohibited articles were contained in the cases, the Spanish Ambassador, in Paris, might have been directed to concert with the minister an appointment of some persons to attend the opening of the cases; or, if the inspection at Cadiz could not be dispensed with, at least care should have been taken that the necessary form was gone through without delay, and in such a manner that nothing might be damaged. If such behaviour was proper towards a Naturalist, sent by the king of France, how much more was it due to Dombey, for his conduct in America, where, at the imminent risque of his own, he had saved the life of a multitude of people, during a contagious disease, and had taught the means of curing and preventing this malady, which frequently rages in Chili! He had discovered a mine of quicksilver to supply the place of those that were become less productive than formerly; he had detected new mines of gold and silver, and pointed out the signs by which they might be known, and the best mode of working them advantageously; he had supported the troops against the rebellion of *Tapac-Maró*; and it had been acknowledged that the preservation of the province of *Huanuco* was owing to his zeal; he had ceded to Spain duplicates of his plants and of his descriptions, without demanding any thing in exchange; he had never accepted of any remuneration from the Spanish government, and had expended more than 200,000 livres in its service.

In spite of all these considerations, an order was sent for the immediate opening of the whole of the cases. These had been made with great care:

* This acknowledgment, which I have now before me, imports that the seventy-three cases, with the collection of Dombey, made at the expense of the king of France, were destined for the royal cabinet and garden at Paris.

they were double; that is to say, each case was enclosed in another, and both cemented together, and covered with skins to keep out insects and moisture. To open them and fasten them up again was a work of time, requiring much address and precaution, especially such as contained brittle subjects: the contents of many of them were, of course, damaged.

In the next place, to repair the loss which his Catholic majesty had sustained, Dombey was required to give up the half of his collection. But, as the separation of what forms in itself a regular series, would of course considerably diminish its value, he refused to comply with this demand. The consent of the court of France was however obtained, and Dombey was under the necessity of submitting. Commissioners were appointed on the part of Spain to attend the division. The arrival of these from Madrid was to be waited for, and in the mean time the cases were stowed in low and damp warehouses, where access to them was denied even to Dombey. Nor could he take out the seeds, though the necessity for sowing them was, on account of the season, very pressing. An offer was made him to fix a value on his collection; but he answered, that, being made for the government of France, he could not possibly set a price upon it, nor would he sell any thing. A part of the things was incontestably his own property; but no respect was paid to this; even the cases packed at Rio Janeiro, belonging to Portugal, which contained the presents made him by the viceroy, were opened.

During all this time Dombey was obliged to remain at Cadiz, without money, without credit, and without resource; and, though treated with contempt, was under the necessity of restraining his indignation. His claims were not heard, and spies were set to watch his conduct. Weary of these vexatious proceedings, he was tempted to renounce every thing, and to go and die in the bosom of his family; a resolution which he was prevented from executing only by the hope of being able to publish the fruit of his labours; but even this consolation was denied him by the jealousy of those at the

head of the intrigue against him. An exact copy of his descriptions, and of the historical notes attached to his herbarium, was taken; nor was his own share of the collection given up, or his departure permitted, till he had given a written promise not to publish any thing before his companions should return from America, where they were detained by superior orders. Such an alarm was purposely excited in his breast, that he was induced to write to Paris, to prevent L'Heritier from publishing the descriptions and engravings of some new plants, which had been raised in the gardens from seeds sent by him from Peru. He thought only of saving himself by burying all that had passed in oblivion. Despair seized his mind, and exaggerated the horror of his situation; his memory and his reason became enfeebled, and he was no longer able to struggle against difficulties.

How, alas! did he now regret those beautiful countries where, in a delicious climate he observed and collected the productions of nature; where he found comfort, even in braving the dangers of attending the sick; where he had acquired friends; where, finally, love had prepared for him a new home! But now all was lost. Sometimes re-animating with his wonted energy, he thought if he were to return to Peru alone, he should be able to excite an insurrection there; but immediately repelling with horror the idea of a criminal revenge, he again sunk into a state of dejection.

At last, after a stay of ten months, he left Cadiz and embarked with his packages for Havre, whence he reached Paris. His collection arrived there also, but this he seemed no longer to set any value upon. He was requested to publish an account of it, but refused, maintaining that the promise he had given, though obtained from him by force, was not in his mind the less sacred.

Upon this refusal M. de Buffon, after having granted him 60,000 livres to discharge his debts, and a pension of 6000, took the herbarium to himself, and remitted it to L'Heritier, with directions to describe and get engraved all the new plants it contained. The Spanish minister being informed of these proceedings, made complaints; and the court of France being unwilling to offend that of Spain, M. de Buffon

received orders to recall the herbarium. It was at this time that L'Heritier departed secretly with it to England, where he remained fifteen months occupied in describing it. This work has however never seen the light; the misfortunes of the revolution prevented its completion, and Dombey is deceased without having seen any thing published. L'Heritier has also perished by a most horrible catastrophe, before it was finished. In the mean time Messrs. Ruiz and Pavon having returned from Peru in 1788, it is at length from the Spanish press that this magnificent work, the *Flora of Peru*, has been ushered into the world.

It is impossible to avoid making here the following reflection: The vessel in which was embarked the collection belonging to the court of Spain being wrecked, it is from the specimens collected by Dombey, from his descriptions, and from the designs made under his care, that a part of the above mentioned work has been compiled; I say a part, because Ruiz and Pavon having staid four years longer in Peru, assisted by other fellow-labourers, must no doubt have added much to what Dombey did; nevertheless his name ought to have appeared in the title page*.

However indifferent it may be to the progress of science, whether this work was published by France or by Spain, it ought, nevertheless, for the reputation of Dombey, to be known how much he contributed towards it; and France herself is concerned, that the credit of the discoveries, made by a Frenchman, should not be taken from her. I will not attempt to point

* It is indeed confessed in the *preface* that the history of the plants of Chili could not have appeared, unless Dombey had given the duplicates of his collection. "Et nisi D.O.M. Dombeyum incolumem servasset, qui Gades pervenit, et prout ab expeditionis inatio præstabilitum fuerat, plantis quas multiplici numero, eo consilio exsiccavit, communicasset, jacturam stirpium Chilensium penitus irreparabilem adhuc deploraremus." But it is by no means proved that Dombey had ever promised duplicates of his plants; and allowing the fact to be so, that condition was already fulfilled by the division that had quick-
been made before at Callao.

out the motives that should induce the editors of that work to seek to appropriate to themselves the labours of Dombey; or how the Spanish minister was deceived; and the claims of an unprotected traveler, who, separated from his companions, could not even call upon their testimony, were silenced. Why should I stop to develop a hateful intrigue, whilst I contemplate so elevated a character, the victim of jealousy and misfortune? I have proved that he has done great things, I have shown that he has not been recompensed, and I draw a veil over details most afflicting.

The plan of retiring into solitude, at the foot of Mount Jura, there peacefully to finish his days, near to a good cultivator whom he had formerly known, was what now alone occupied the thoughts of Dombey. All his debts were paid, and he found himself sufficiently rich. Disgusted with celebrity, and with the sciences which he once so passionately loved, he gave to his friends whatever he could dispose of, and broke off all his correspondence with foreign naturalists, preserving a friendly intercourse with M. de Pavon alone.

The death of M. Guettard having occasioned a vacancy in the academy in the year 1786, the learned members turned their views to Dombey, and M. Jussieu undertook to present him; but he obstinately refused the intended honour. The Russian ambassador having offered, on account of the empress, 100,000 livres for the duplicates he still possessed, he returned his thanks with saying, that an increase of fortune was not an equivalent to him for the pleasure of presenting to the naturalists of his own country specimens that had cost him so much trouble to acquire. Lastly, M. de Galvez, wishing in some sort to recompense him for the sacrifices he had required of him in Spain, wrote to offer him a very considerable sum, which he without hesitation refused*.

As his plan of settling in the country could not be executed so expeditiously as he wished, he in the meantime retired to Lyons, to the house of some ladies,

his relations, where he became a misanthrope, hardly ever seeing any one. Here he was, during the siege of the city; and although he seemed to know nothing of what passed, and to pay no regard to life, yet the general desolation, and the surrounding dangers overwhelmed him with terror. He resumed courage however to assist the sick, and to give succour to some unfortunate beings, sinking under the horrors of famine. After the taking of the city, he hastened to quit this scene of carnage and devastation, to seek a peaceful asylum; but at that time blood was flowing in every direction, and the sights to which he was witness so harrowed up his soul, that he would no longer abide in France. An order was however necessary to enable him to quit it; he therefore solicited a commission which should authorize him to make a voyage to America. The committee of public safety having invited that of public instruction to send to the United States the standard of the new measures, the latter gave to Dombey this commission by an *arrêt* of the 26th Primaire, year 2. He was likewise authorized to buy corn for France in the United States, and a number of queries were sent him relative to objects of science, of commerce, and of geography. Accordingly he embarked at Havre, in an American brig, the 24th Nivose, year 2; but being obliged by a storm to put into Guadaloupe, he landed at Port-a-Petree, the 21st Ventose.

Guadaloupe was at that time in the same distracted state as France. The revolutionary party had the command at Port-a-Petree: the governor resided at Basseterre, joined by such as wished to preserve the old order of things in the colony. Dombey being well received in quality of envoy from the republic, was for this reason suspected by the governor, who sent an order for him to repair to Basseterre. But although of principles opposite to the factious, he did not think proper to obey the summons; he resolved therefore to depart with the delegates of the revolutionary corps of representatives, who had freighted a small vessel for Philadelphia. He left Port-a-Petree the 1st Germinal, and went to sleep on a little island, whence the vessel was to take him the next day.

* This fact was verified to me, by M. Michel, doctor of physic at Pullins, a friend of Dombey, who had read the letter of M. Galvez.

During the night, he was seized and thrown into prison at the bay of Mahaut. Upon the knowledge of this event the inhabitants of Point-a-Petre assembled in a great croud to demand the release of the envoy of the committee of public instruction, which was immediately granted. As soon as he made his appearance, the enraged mob, to avenge the treatment he had received, determined to seize the authors of it. Dombey having in employed intreaties to oppose this violence, placed himself before the leaders of the mob, in struggling with whom he fell into Salt River, and was taken out without signs of life. This accident diverting the attention of the people, they returned peaceably home. Thus the last act of his liberty was to defend those against whom he had reason to complain. A violent lever was the consequence of this fall and alarm; as soon as he recovered from which, to avoid new troubles, he thought it was most prudent to go before the governor. Being interrogated, he was found to be an upright man, and a stranger to all party spirit. He was ordered however to quit the colony on board the same vessel that had brought him thither, which was about to set sail. Scarcely had the ship got out of the road before she was attacked by two corsairs, against whom she could not defend herself. Dombey was detected disguised in the habit of a Spanish sailor, and thrown into prison at Monserrat, where disease, disappointment, and ill usage, soon put a period to his existence. His fate was for a long time unknown; for such was at that time the convulsed state of France, that no notice could be taken of the misfortunes of an absent man. The intelligence of his death was at length received at New York, and communicated to the committee of public instruction on the 27th Vendemaire, year 3, about six months after the event took place.

Thus, after passing a life of perpetual agitation, and exposed to a thousand dangers, the victim of injustice, and robbed of the fruit of his labours, fell Dombey, without a friend to console him, and in distant captivity;—adding one to the list of those who have died martyrs to their zeal for natural history. But whilst we deplore his destiny, let us not consider it as

without alleviation. Let it be remembered that his death arrived at that awful period when so many meritorious men were subjected to the revolutionary axe; that through his whole life his sentiments of benevolence, patriotism, and generosity were never diminished; that supported in the midst of dangers by his love of science, the idea of enriching his country never forsook him; that even his misanthropy, whilst it estranged him from the indifferent, attached him the more closely to a few friends, and the melancholy which cast a shade over his latter days, never changed the amiability of his character. Happy in the recollection of the good he had done to his contemporaries; happy in the foresight of the advantage posterity would reap from his discoveries, he knew how to find enjoyments beyond the power of man to embitter. Long accustomed to disappointment, he gave up every project, renounced every hope; and despising both fortune and fame, in the midst of the most turbulent times, lived only to friendship and virtue.

I have already observed that the collection of Dombey was divided with Spain; that in Paris he had given to his patrons, to his friends, and to several naturalists, such duplicates as he could part with, without diminishing the value of the collection designed for the government.

Mineralogy is indebted to him for two new minerals, viz. muriated copper, or green sand of Peru; and *Peculase*, the finest chrysal of which is preserved in the cabinet of M. de Drée. The *école des mines* possesses several valuable articles that came from him; but the greater part of the fruits of his voyages is contained in the National Museum.

The gallery of minerals owes to him, besides the two before-mentioned substances, crystals of prismatic hyaline quartz; a very fine native emerald from Peru, in a matrix of lamellar limestone; several pieces of native gold branched in quartz; a piece of vein very rich in silver, above thirty pounds weight: the metal appears in it in the form of diverging branches; superb pieces of muriated silver, with shining granulated crystals; a mass of compact muriated silver, weighing above twelve pounds; specimens of ores of quick-

silver; of flexible grit; of fossil bones of the gigantic animal of the Ohio, incrustured with silver, &c.

The gallery of zoology has received from him the Mouffette of Chili, described in the supplement to Buffon; many birds, amongst which are several species of Tangara; several fish, one unknown, described by M. de Lacépède, under the name of Gastrobranche de Dombey; the magnificent butterflies of Brazil, and several species of Curculio and of the Zyganæ*. His herbarium, consisting of about 1500 species, well preserved, is also deposited in the museum: amongst these are about sixty new genera, almost all of which have been published by Ruiz and Pavon, by names different from those given by Dombey. It is accompanied by a manuscript containing a history of the plants of Peru and Chili; the characters of the new genera; the description of the species, and an account of their uses†. It contains also many observations on the mines of Chili.

The garden of the museum is indebted to Dombey for several curious plants, which have thence been spread over the principal gardens of Europe. Such as the shrub known by the name of *Floripendia*‡, which produces so picturesque an effect in our parterres for several months in the year, catching the eye at a distance by its bell-shaped flowers, a foot long, hanging floating from extremities of the branches: the *Aristolelia muqui*, the berries of which

afford a refreshing juice, in which Dombey found a great resource in the cure of the contagious fever of Chili; the species of sage which L'Heritier has named *Salvia formosa*, the scarlet flowers of which possess a lively brilliancy. But the most interesting of all the plants which Dombey has introduced amongst us, is the lemon-scented vervain (*Verbena triphylla* L'Her.) The leaves of this shrub, which grows to the height of fifteen feet, have the most delicious perfume of any plant that can be cultivated in Europe. At Paris it is necessary to protect it in the greenhouse, during the severe frosts; but in the more temperate climates it thrives in the open air. Hedges of this shrub are already seen at Florence; and in the department of the Lower Alps it has been successfully cultivated by M. de Ruffo. When it shall come to be more dispersed in the south of France, it will be seen by the side of the roads, forming little groves, which, from the the elegant growth of the shrubs, the lightness of the panicles of flowers, of a lavender gray colour, the lively green of the foliage, and above all from their sweet reviving perfume, will in every respect exceed the groves of myrtle so celebrated by the poets. The dried leaves preserve all their odour, and an infusion of them is both palatable and wholesome: if this plant, as some botanists think, ought to be separated from the vervains and made a separate genus of, we should wish to see it consecrated to the name of Dombey.

The gardens and the cabinets of natural history are not the only establishments that have been enriched by this traveller. The cabinet of antiquities in the national library has received from him the vases found in the tombs of the incas, and several curious monuments of the antient Peruvians.

Nothing of Dombey's has been printed, except a letter in the *Journal de Physique* (tom. xv.) upon the saltpetre found in Peru, and upon the luminous appearance of the sea. In this he observes that the sea is never phosphoric, except in the warm or temperate climates, and that it is especially so when the weather is disposed to be stormy.

Annals of Botany.

* Amongst these papilios are two very rare and of the greatest beauty: one has been named by Fabricius *Papilio Lærtæus*, the other is a non-descript, related to *Papilio Heruba*. The weevils are not less remarkable, one is the *Curculio imperialis* of Fabricius; two others, *C. fastuosus* and *sumptuosus*, which Olivier has described from these individuals. The names given to these curculios point out how much they exceed in beauty and size what had been before observed.

† On comparing this manuscript with the *Flora Peruviana*, it may be seen that the Spanish authors have often copied the descriptions of the French botanist.

‡ Cultivated in Peru, but, as Dombey assures us, brought from Chili.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

CUSTOMS CHANGED.

SIR,

THE following literal transcript of an order from Henry the VIII. signed by his own hand, for the use of the Lady Lucy, one of the maids of honour in his court, which seems to be for one day's consumpt of that lady, I think will amuse many of your female readers. Great indeed must be the reformation in point of manners, since the time of the Lady Lucy, if the temperament of the mind depend in the smallest manner, on the quantity and quality of the aliment used for the sustenance of the Body. Even in point of expenses all the elegant habiliments of one of our fair Country women, joined to the cost of the most dainty repasts, and comprehending every species of luxurious refinement in which they at present indulge themselves, would not amount to half the value of the Lady Lucy's bill of fare.

ORDER OF HENRY VIII.

"We wol and commaunde you, to allow daily from henceforth, unto our Right Dere and Wellbelovede the Lady Lucy, into her Chambre, the Dyet and feire hereafter ensuyng. Furst, every moyrning at Breakfast oon Chyne of Beyse at our Kechyne oon Cheyte loff and oon maunchet at our panatrye Barr, and a galone of ale at our Buttrye barr. Item, at dyner a pese of beyse, a stroke of Roste, and a reward at our sede Kechyne, a cast of chete bread at our panatrye barr, and a galone of ale at our buttrye barr. Item, at afternoon a maunchet at our panatrye barr, and halfe a galone of ale at our Buttrye barr. Item, at Supper a mese of Porage, a pese of Mutton, and a reward at our saide Kechyne, a cast of cheyte at our panatrye, and a Galone of ale at our Buttrye brede. Item, at after Supper a Chete loff, and a maunchet at our panatrye barr, a Galone of ale at our buttrye barr, and half a galone of Wine at our seller barr. Item, every morning at our Woode yard four tall Shyd and two fagots. Item, at our chaundrye barr in winter every night oon pre-

kett and four syes of waxe, with eight Candells white lights, and oon torch. Item, at our Picherhouse Wokely six white Cuppes. Item, at every time of our remooving oon hoole Carte for the Carriage of her stuff, and these our lettres shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge in this behalf at all tymes hereafter.

Given under ouer signet at our manour of Esthamsteide XVIth day of July XIIIth yere of our reigne.
To the Lord Steward of our Household, the treasurer Comptroller, Cofferer, Clerks of Grene Clothe, Clerks of our Kechyne, and to all our hed Officers of our sed household, and to every of theym.

ARBUTHNOT.

This Physician, when a young man, attempted to settle at Dorchester, a county town in the west of England, remarkable for its healthy situation, salubrious air, and interesting environs; circumstances desirable to a traveller or an inhabitant, but not productive to a physician.

On quitting Dorsetshire, a friend met him galloping to London, and asked him whether he was going? "To leave your confounded place," replied the physician, "for I can neither live nor die there."

THE TRIUMPH OF TALENT.

Beauzet was elected a member of the French Academy, in the early part of the 18th. century, at a period when the meetings of that society were crowded with unbelievers; yet Beauzet was firmly convinced of the truth of the Christian religion, and able to defend what he believed.

At the time it was the occasion of some surprise, that those who influenced that body, did not choose a genius of their own cast. "I consider myself as highly honoured," said Beauzet at his first introduction, "by being admitted into this illustrious assembly; but, gentlemen, may I be permitted to ask, how it has happened that your choice fell upon me, who, on certain subjects differ so widely with you; if I mistake not," continued Beauzet, casting his eyes around him, "at the

moment I speak, I am the only person who acknowledge the existence of a God."

"We are not surprized at your question," replied D' Alembert, "but you possess qualifications of which we stand in need, we wanted a skilful grammarian and etymologist, and knowing you to be a good sort of a man, notwithstanding your weakness on certain points, we elected you, because, in fact, there was no philosopher able to supply your place."

Such was the triumph of virtuous talent over profane prejudice, and fanatic scepticism.

CAROLAN.

This celebrated composer and musician once challenged a brother professor of considerable eminence to a trial of skill, who immediately played the fifth concerto of Vivaldo. "I cannot excel it," exclaimed the generous bard, "but I can play it as well myself." This he actually did at the moment, without losing a single note, and without having recourse to any score, which it was impossible for a man born blind to make any use of.

A GOOD GOVERNOR.

In the beginning of the present century, George Lewis, Margrave of Bareith, finding his exchequer empty, and a long catalogue of debts, particularly four hundred and sixty thousand florins due to the late king of Prussia; was advised by his ministers to impose new taxes on his subjects. The Margrave rejected this advice with honest indignation, and determining to rely on prudent economy, rather than on the patience and generosity of his people, he dismissed a useless and expensive train of servants and horses, appointed a regency, and retired to Geneva: having liquidated his debts he returned, and enjoyed the public love, in sober splendour and magnificent hospitality.

EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF SOMNIOLOQUISM.

The countess De Laval, a french lady of quality, at an early period of her life, had been in the habit of speaking in her sleep, and was frequently observed on those occasions to utter an incoherent gibberish, which no one could understand. But, on a certain occasion, being confined to her chamber by illness, a woman of Brit-

tany was employed to wait on her as a nurse; the moment this attendant heard the sick lady pouring out, according to custom, these strange nocturnal effusions, she pronounced them to be the uncouth language used in that province, which is as different from the pure Parisian, as the Cornish, from the conversation of a polite circle in London; it ought to be observed that the countess was a native of Brittany but had quitted it when very young. In that province, or in a person who spoke their dialect, the circumstance here recorded would not have been extraordinary; but Madam De Laval, when awake, could not speak or even pronounce that jargon, nor understand it when spoken by another."

HENRY IV. OF FRANCE.

Alphonso D'Ornano was a Hugonot of considerable repute in the reign of Henry IV. of France, by whom he was prevailed upon to quit the reformed religion, and his acquiescence rewarded with a Marshall's staff. By seducing so eminent a sectary, the Monarch hoped to countenance his own change, to which he had consented from genuine patriotism, and a conviction that it was the only means of restoring tranquillity to his distracted people. "You have damned your soul for the salvation of your country," were the strong words of a sensible sectary of that distracted period.

There is strong proof that Henry's alteration of religion did not arise from any consciousness of the truth of its tenets, or the divine origin of its tradition. "Which of the two religions do you think the best?" said the king, in a confidential moment, to his military convert. "The Protestant, undoubtedly," replied the veteran, "in which opinion I have the honour to coincide with your majesty." "How is that D'Ornano," said the prince, with a cheek flushed by irritation, and somewhat raising his voice; "after what has so lately passed, can you be serious in asserting, that I think the religious faith of the Hugonots the best?" "Certainly, my liege, if you would never have bribed me so handsomely to quit it." Corrected and perplexed by this short but unanswerable logic, Henry paused for a moment, and turned the conversation to another subject.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

IMPROVED HORSE-SHOE,

*Invented by Mr. Edward Coleman,
Vet. Surg.*

THE object of this invention is to prevent diseases of the horse's foot, particularly the contraction of the hoof. This disease proceeds from the hoof being exposed to artificial and unnatural heat in the stable, or from the frog not receiving its due degree of pressure. This shoe is designed to prevent the contraction of the heels, though the frog be not in contact with the ground; it also has the advantage of being more firmly united to the hoof than any others hitherto employed. It can also be properly applied by the most ignorant and uninformed smith, as its difference from all others consists in the inner and posterior parts of both heels of the shoe being turned up, so as to touch the inner and posterior parts of both bars, by which means the heels of the hoof cannot contract, or the shoe have the smallest degree of lateral motion. The length of the turn up of the shoe should be sufficiently long to embrace the heel of the bar, and yet not to touch the bottom of the cavity between the bar and the frog. A bar shoe may also be applied with a similar projection, to press against the heels of the bars. If the hoof is already contracted, the heels may be

mechanically expanded a little by a pair of farrier's tongs every time the horse is shod, and the shoe applied so as to press with more force against the bars: but under these circumstances the hoof should first be made moist by standing two or three hours in water, and the horse not used for a day or two afterwards.

New Method of making Carbonate of Lead, commonly called white Lead: by Mr. E. M. Noble.

Thin plates or small pieces of lead are to be placed in an open vessel; into this is to be poured acetic acid, or a solution of acetite of lead, so that the lead may be partly immersed in it: into this is introduced a mixture of Carbonic acid gas, and oxygen gas. The whole is frequently agitated to remove the carbonate when formed, and afford a new surface to the action of the fluids. Instead of lead in a metallic state, the inventor sometimes uses an oxyd of lead containing such a proportion of oxygen as will allow it to unite with acetic acid, &c. In either case the carbonate of lead is produced, the whiteness of which depends on the quality of the materials employed. The carbonate is to be separated from the mixture and dried, previous to being mixed with oil. Sometimes it requires to be freed from its impurities by washing.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

The following poem, never before published, was written by a young man who lived near Moyallen, in the county Down. He died sometime ago, of the small pox, at the age of twenty-one years. He received his education at a common country school, where he learned to read, write, and cast accounts. Of his early indications of genius little is remembered, but it is a fact that he wrote a great many pieces at an early age, most, if not all, of which have been lost. His employment of weaving did not allow much time

for the cultivation of his talent; yet while actively employed at his work, he would suddenly stop, seize his pen, and portray the images of his lively imagination, on no other desk than the breast beam of his loom. In this way, and on such an occasion, the present piece was written. While at work he observed two spiders seize on a fly who had got entangled in their nets; his imagination added the rest.

BATTLE OF SPIDERS.

SOFTLY blew the summer breezes,
O'er the dew bespangled mead,
And the sun with fiery lustre,
Pierces through the thickest shade;

Softly runs the murmuring river,
Through the plains in easy rills,
And the swains their sheep attending,
Pipe melodious on the hills.

In a grove whose ample covert,
Shaded o'er a winding flood,
Close beside the limpid water,
There an ancient abbey stood.

Once it was a holy structure,
Where religious friars stay,
But it long had been deserted
And in heapy ruins lay.

Here two bands of cruel spiders,
Hung their treacherous nets on high,
And lay lurking in a corner,
To surprise the unwary fly.

O'er these lands there rapt two chieftains,
Whose broad nets contiguous lay,
And they often were disputing,
'Who should bear the greatest sway.

When behold a fly, whose buzzing
Long employed each monarch's thought,
With its purple wings extended,
Just between the nets was caught.

Hard it struggled for its freedom,
Quite impatient of delay,
When with horrid jaws expanded,
These grim furies seized their prey ;

So, two lions from the forest,
Fly with most tremendous roar,
Flocks and herds in pieces rending,
Staining all the ground with gore ;

Thus they seize the panting victim,
Loud it sends repeated cries,
Wearied out at last with torture,
Buzzes, struggles, faints, and dies.

Then began a fierce contention,
Who the breathless corpse should have,
Each one thought he best deserved it,
Each with equal fury rave.

Striving still to haul it backwards,
Each black warrior tries in vain,
When around in thick'ning legions,
Cluster all the long-legg'd train.

Adverse parties aid their chieftains,
Long they pull with furious rage,
But, when neither tribe could gain it,
All in bloody fight engage ;

So, two thundering armies meeting,
Loud with clamour shake the shore,
Dreadful wounds, and death succeeding,
Trumpets sound, and cannon roar.

Thus they rage with dreadful fury,
All in one tumultuous throng,
Foot to foot, was there opposed,
Rank drove rank with force along.

Grinding teeth, and jaws extended,
Eyes that shot a fiery glare,
Fury on each visage painted,
Dreadful rage inspires the war.

Thus they seek each other's ruin,
Thus they pant for mutual blood,
When an owl with fury flying,
Darts out of the gloomy wood.

Straight its flight it then directed
To the scene of hostile fray,
And, with beak and claws extended,
Tore at once both hosts away.

TO HOPE.

HOPE, thou soother of affliction,
Wipe with lenient hand the tear,
Strike me with the kind conviction,
That thy promised joys are near.

Thou from anguish oft relieved me,
Op'd bright prospects to my view,
Thou in the end deceived me,
For the time I thought thee true.

When oppressed with care and sorrow,
Still, kind hope, thou hoverest near ;
Thou an angel's form dost borrow,
Doubt's dark gloomy clouds to clear.

When a chill poverty oppressing,
Binds the poor man to the oar,
He can bear the weight, confessing
That the best deserves no more.

Ready Hope his case befriending,
With the prospect warms his breast
That his toil and trouble ending,
He in Heaven will find his rest.

When love, of peace the bosom robbing,
Scorning spurns at wealth or fame,
When the fond heart thrilling, throbbing,
Vibrates at the dear one's name.

Hope can mitigate the anguish,
Paint the lover faithful, true,
Hope can make us cease to languish,
Every joyful hour renew.

When our friends drop off around us,
Sinking one by one to rest,
Let not grief or doubt confound us,
Hope will whisper they are blest.

When affliction deeper seated,
Than the loss of worldly wealth,
When heart-felt sorrows oft repeated,
Slowly undermine the health,

Hope, firm on her anchor leaning,
Prays our sure and steadfast stay,
She all worldly woes disdainful,
Points to heaven, and leads the way.

LYDIA.

SELECT POETRY.

THE WORM OF THE STILL.

I HAVE found what the learn'd seem so puzzled to tell,

The *true* shape of the devil, and where is his hell;
Into serpents of old, crept the author of ill,
But Satan works now, as a worm of the *still*.

Of all his migrations, this last he likes best,
How the arrogant reptile, here, raises his crest!
His head winding up from the tail of his plan,
Till the worm stands erect o'er the *prostrated man*.

Here he joys to transform, by his magical spell,
The sweet milk of the earth to an essence of hell,
Fermented our food and corrupted our grain,
To fannish the stomach and madden the brain.

By his water of life, what distraction and fear!
By the gloom of its light, what pale spectres appear!
A demon keeps time with his fiddle finance,
While the passions spring forth in a horrible dance.

'Then prone on the earth, they adore in the dust,
A man's baser half, rais'd in room of his bust;
Such orgies the nights of the drunkard display,
But how black with ennui, how benighted his day!

With draws it begins, and with drama must it end,
A drama is his country, his mistress, his friend;
Till the ossify'd heart hates itself at the last,
And the dream nerves his hand for the death-doing blast.

Mark that mother, that monster, that shame and
that curse,
See her child hang dead-drunk at the breast of its
nurse;

As it drops from the arm mark her stupify'd stare,
Then she wakes with a yell and a shriek of despair.

Is this the *civility* promis'd our nation?
This the *salon*, dissolv'd in a cup of damnation,
Which our chancellor Comus extols as divine,
To train up our fate and our fortune, as swine.

Drink, Erin, drink deep from this chrySTALLINE round,
Till the tortures of self-recollection be drown'd;
Till the hopes of thy heart be all stiffen'd to stone,
Then sit down on the dirt, like a queen on her throne.

No frenzy for freedom to flash o'er the brain,
Thou shalt dance to the musical clank of the chain,
A crown of cheap straw shall seem rich to thine eye,
And peace and good order shall reign in the sty.

Nor boast that no track of the viper is seen,
To stain thy pure surface of emerald green,
For the serpent will never want poison to kill,
While the fat of your fields feeds the *Worm of the still*.

VERSES ON SIR J. MOORE.

WRITTEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER INTELLIGENCE HAD ARRIVED OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS MARCH FROM LISBON.

UNCHECK'D by regards of duration
and distance,
How sweet on the missions of fancy to
stray!

To leave the dull confines of local existence,

And wanton, and bask in the glitter of day!

But hence ye pale visions of sickly invention,

A scene not unreal my senses enchains:
Now Spain, all in arms, rears the flag of contention,

And Europe's last battle is fought on her plains.

In quest of the fight, march her high-sou'd'd defenders,

Their phalanx how dense, how upshaken their tread!

The foe his vain ensigns of empire surrenders,

Fear chases his hosts, and his satraps are fled;

The Gaul calls new hordes from the wide circling regions,

Dark clouds of stern menace the prospect obscure;

Enraptur'd I mark the advance of the legions,

Which Britain, undoubting, confides to her MOORE.

Thro' deserts, o'er mountains, 'cross floods and morasses,

The hero explores his inflexible way,
Slow famine, insidious, strews snares where he passes,

And fronting his progress stands war in array.

Ah! were the fond breathings of friendship availing,

Ripe harvests, lov'd chieftain! should start from the sod;

Wide floods roll confin'd beneath arches unfailing,

And war, like a slave, be controul'd by thy nod.

Fit theme for bright ode, or grave legend preparing,

Go measure thy worth 'gainst the millions of fame;

Intrepidly cautious, and skilfully daring,
Change defeat to success, and mould triumph from shame;

Pursue thy high fates, and serenely ambitious,

The rank which thy merits sward thee assume,

A CHURCHILL, of laurels alone avaricious!

A NELSON, unstamped by the seal of the tomb!

ANCIENT LITERATURE.

REFLECTIONS ON JUVENAL.

Semper ego auditor tantum? nunquamne
reponam,
Vexatus toties.....

Frequently have I been annoyed, and sometimes provoked, by hearing the most foul aspersions profusely lavished on the works of the immortal Juvenal, by persons incapable of judging of the real merits of that Author; but perhaps, my fondness and partiality for that Prince of Satirists, have contriouted not a little to excite my vexation and chagrin. From the minute details given by our Author, of the villanies, and iniquities that were practised in his days, some of his accusers have been led to believe that he had something more than a mere theoretic knowledge of the depravity of the times, and have therefore affixed to him the degrading title, of having been "*a rakish debauchee*." Now, partly a desire to pay some little tribute of gratitude to the memory of Juvenal, as a compensation for the instruction and delight which his pages have often afforded me; and partly a wish to endeavour to free his character from this stigma, have induced me to hazard these reflections and to lay them before the tribunal of public scrutiny, through the medium of your magazine, which, I trust, will always continue to be a repository of erudition and instruction. Even supposing him to have been practically acquainted with the iniquities of his times, he, on that account is certainly entitled to extraordinary merit, for having rescued himself from the *Vortex* of licentiousness, and standing forth as the castigatior and expositor of lewdness, in order to excite a disgust of it in his well disposed readers. However, instances could be adduced, of persons being able to display in forcible and glowing language, circumstances with which it never could be conceived they had the slightest practical acquaintance, and minutely describing the vicious habits of the times, and the compunction and remorse generally attendant on the practice of them; and who would insinuate these

are any thing else than theoretic descriptions? The great Sterne (though not exactly a case in point,) who stands unrivalled in pathetic descriptions, appears to have been "an actor only;" as some late accounts prove him to have been a person of the most obdurate insensibility. The profligacy of the times was too barefaced and glaring, to pass unnoticed, even by a common observer; and the incensed Satirist, was obliged to make use of language, which was sanctioned by the licentiousness, and lewdness of the age; when, no innuendoes, nothing but plain undisguised truth, could be attended with any beneficial effect. Notwithstanding, I allow,

Si foret hoc nostrum fato dilatus in ævum,
Detereret sibi multa, recideret omne
quod ultra
Pudorem traheretur.

His obscenities, however, are completely counterbalanced, by the sound morality which pervades the greater part of his works; and the christian reader, though aided and enlightened by the bright lustre of *Revelation*, may be put to the blush, when he finds his vices and irregularities not only censured and satirized; but himself equalled in the most virtuous conceptions, and moral reflections, by a being assisted merely by the *saint rays* of natural Religion. For Juvenal not only lashes at the vices of his own, but (I am sorry to say) of our times also. At present one or two instances must suffice. What author has so convincingly and so beautifully illustrated the futility of those transient and temporal qualifications, which mankind, *even now* so eagerly desire, and so ardently aspire after, as Juvenal has done, in that *Sermonic Lecture*, his tenth Satire? when, at the hazard of his existence, he censured a vicious Emperor, for investing one of the *Histrionic* tribe* with the first offices of state, how applicable to the present day! for we see, not exactly a stage-player,

* The Classical scholar is too well acquainted with this story, to need any particular illustration.

but, as Peter Plymley asserts, "a joker of jokes, an Epigrammatist &c. &c."† not only honoured with high preferment, but lavishing some of the Nation's wealth on whomsoever he pleases, and, indisputably evident it must appear, that the worthless and incapable, occupy those high stations, and reputable employments in the state, which should be entrusted to none but the ingenuous and capable, especially in times so momentous as the present. Though not blind to his defects, were I possessed of talents adequate to eulogise Juvenal suitably as he deserves, I would summon them all up to my aid; and in doing so, I would consider myself honourably employed. This must suffice however for the present. At some future period, perhaps I may submit to the public, reflections on the same author; provided these are deemed worthy of a place in your impartial publication.

Yours, M. F.

ON THE EPISTLES OF PHALARIS.

THE dispute concerning the authenticity of the epistles that go under the name of the celebrated tyrant of Agrigentum, has been long since decided: and learned men are now fully agreed that they are spurious, being, most probably, the production of some of the later Greek sophists, who either through love of money, or for a trial of his own ingenuity, has imposed on the literary world the essay of his imagination as a compilation of the genuine letters of Phalaris.

In our own days, such deceptions are common, and are so easily detected that they scarcely deserve the name of fraud. They are intended by the author and considered by his reader as a means of conveying information so as to attract attention and arrest curiosity more strongly than if delivered by himself. They may be compared to inscriptions on monuments the words of which are supposed to proceed from the body enclosed, and for this reason, make a more lively impression on our minds.

Viewed in this light I have admired

the ingenuity with which the writer of *het* epistles has depicted a likeness of a tyrant; how strongly he has marked those lines which determine the character; how well he has expressed the contending passions which agitate his breast; and the strange though natural inconsistency which forces him frequently to act in a manner so dissonant to the feelings of his heart, and the determination of his better judgment.

The account we have of the extraordinary character who forms the subject of the letters is very short and unsatisfactory. Little more is known of him than that he was a native of Crete, and in consequence of one of those civil commotions, which eternally agitated every Grecian city, that was not bound down by the chains of despotism, he retired to Agrigentum in Sicily, where he found means to usurp the Government, and not only added one to the list of tyrants, of which, as the Latin historian says, no country was ever more fertile, but, if we may credit the accounts given by every antient author by whom he is mentioned, he surpassed them all in ingenious refinements of cruelty.

Yet if we are to believe the writer of these letters, many splendid qualities broke out from among the midst of his vices. Superior abilities as a statesman and general must belong to every usurper, as they are the only means by which he can acquire and possess absolute dominion. But he is represented as possessing in a very high degree some of the domestic virtues, which are generally supposed to bloom only in the humbler scenes of private retirement, but to be too tender to endure the storms and exposure of an exalted situation. His letters to his wife and his son, do honour to the heart that conceived and the head that formed them; and it cannot but excite our regret that the man so well calculated to constitute the felicity of a domestic society, should prefer to become the cause of a nation's miseries and the object of its execrations. The following are translations of the letters alluded to.

TO PAUROLAS.

"Both your parents, my son, merit your love and highest respect, on

† Peter Plymley's letter to his brother Abraham in the country.

account of the favours you have received from those to whom you owe your birth and so many other benefits. Yet a preference is certainly due to a mother beyond a father: for his claims to your gratitude for the cares of education are by no means equal to hers. A mother, besides the pains of birth and the cares of infancy, endures a thousand other anxieties; a father on the contrary, without experiencing any of these troubles, reaps the benefits and comfort of maturer years, refined and perfected by education. To you, above all others, should your mother be dear; as during my banishment she alone underwent the cares of both parents. It is your duty, therefore, to repay to her alone the gratitude due to both your parents: your obligation to your father will be fulfilled by your attentions to her. I claim nothing more for myself, if you perform this part of your duty; on the contrary, your kindness to her will be felt and acknowledged as a benefit by me. Consider also how becoming it will be in you, if the first display of your good intentions towards your father, be shewn in making a return to your mother for all the cares she has so lavishly bestowed on you."

TO THE SAME.

"I have received the crown which you sent me, of six hundred minæ weight; and have accepted it, both on account of the good omen, and from my regard to him who sent it. After having worn it the day on which I offered a sacrifice to the gods of our ancestors for the victory over the Leontines, I sent it as a present to your mother Erythia. I know no person who so well deserves such an ornament as a mother. You may render yourself a more beautiful and honourable crown to us, if your sentiments are suitable to the glory of your parents."

TO THE SAME.

"You have obtained the rights due by a father to a son, my Paurolas; you are wrong in not repaying those due by you to your father, when you have it in your power. I hear that you neglect your studies; a fault for which I have had cause for frequent blame. Should you be deficient

in this part of your duty, I shall pay but little regard to the rest. Be assured, if you gratify my wish, that the advantages of Education will accrue, not to me who receive, but to you who bestow the favour."

TO ERYTHIA.

"I have to return you many thanks, my Erythia, both for myself and for our son whom I left with you. For myself, because during my banishment you preferred to remain a widow, rather than marry another, notwithstanding the many proposals made to you. For my son, because you were to him a mother, a nurse and a father: you preferred no husband to Phalaris, no son to Paurolas. Instead of a second husband, retaining your affection for the first; instead of another son, preserving the offspring of your first marriage. Continue still for both our sakes to bestow these favours on him until he shall have attained an age which will render him independent of our care. I make this request of you so earnestly, not as if I doubted the tenderness of a mother, and such a mother, but as a father anxious for his only son. From your own feelings you can form a judgment of a parent's fears for his children, and will grant me your pardon for the manner in which I write concerning him. Farewell."

Other letters on the same subject express similar sentiments. Those also to his friends are equally admirable for their sentiments and the elegance of the language in which they are expressed. That addressed to a physician who had attended him during a severe illness is peculiarly worthy of notice. It is strongly expressive of the fears and suspicions he entertained of all around him.

TO POLYCLITUS.

I know not, Polyclitus, whether I ought more to admire your skill or fidelity. The one has triumphed over a deadly disease, the other has taught you to reject the honour bestowed on the slayer or a tyrant. Your justice incited by both of these has rescued me from the assault of a double enemy, the attack of an inevitable distemper, and the designs of my enemies. For had the disease been fatal, it was completely in your power, by

permitting it to take its course, to have obtained the character of a destroyer of tyrants; had it been otherwise, you might have easily effected the same purpose, by administering improper drugs, as I took with confidence every medicine you offered. But you scorned to prefer unjust gain, to real glory: perhaps also from a principle of piety you thought that the disease which delivered me into your hands, was not a proper means for putting an end to a tyrant. Being therefore in your power to treat me as you pleased, I can never make you a return equal to your merits, and can only say, that your sentiments are worthy of the deity from whom you have received your skill. However together with these well merited praises I have sent you as proofs of my gratitude, four cups of pure gold, two silver bowls of superior workmanship, ten pair of glass goblets, twenty young slaves, and fifty thousand pieces of silver. I have also written to Teucer the president of my household to allow you a pension equal to what the captains of my fleet, my life guards and the colonels of the rest of my forces receive. To these, for want of other means, let me add, the acknowledgement of my inability to bestow on you a reward equal to your services."

In a subsequent letter he pardons a conspirator who had been clearly convicted of a design against his life, through the intercession of Polycritus.

He appears also to have been a lover and encourager of literature in all its branches. He endeavoured to persuade men of learning to settle at Agrigentum, but seems to have been generally unsuccessful. None of the philosophers except Pythagoras, seem to have acted with the magnanimity of Plato, in exposing their lives through a desire of reclaiming a tyrant. From Abaris the Scythian he received an answer to a proposal of this nature, which, if the letter be genuine, reflects little credit on the writer's character. In several parts of his correspondence, both with the philosophers and others, he confesses that he retains the government which he had usurped, not through any gratification he enjoys from it, but from

the fear of the consequences attending his abdication; thus illustrating the celebrated saying of Solon, "that a tyranny is like a fair garden, pleasant to enter, but impossible to be left."

But all his good qualities are tarnished by his cruelty; which he appears to have excited in many cases from a conviction of the necessity of exhibiting dreadful examples to others, but frequently it seems to have been the natural effect of his own disposition. Of his love of cruelty and his wish to be a complete master of the art of ingeniously tormenting, we have a well known proof in the story of Perillus, but some of his letters show still more curious indications of his skill in that diabolical science. The following may serve for specimens.

TO ALCIBIUS.

"Polycritus the Messenian whom you accused of treason to your citizens, has restored me from a dangerous malady. I know that this will excite your lamentations and tears. For not even Esculapius the inventor of medicine, together with all the rest of the Gods can cure you. Art removes the weakness of the body, death alone is the physician of the soul. Wherefore for your many and great offences committed against me, not by constraint but inclination, you may depend on my administering this remedy."

TO EVENUS.

"I was at first inclined to kill your son, whom I had taken prisoner, on account of his treatment of the captains of my ships. I afterwards repented and spared his life; for I would rather torment you by permitting him to live, than him by putting him to death. Farewell."

TO HERODOTUS.

"Some persons when injured, conceal their intention of vengeance, that they may fall upon the offenders unawares. I, on the contrary; esteem it dishonourable to attack an enemy when unprepared. Wherefore as I have been injured by you, I forewarn you to be upon your guard; I give you this notice; that previous to its infliction, the fear of punishment, and when it comes, the punishment itself may torture you."

These quotations are sufficient to show the character of the book. If it was written, as is hinted already, with the design of conveying a useful lesson, it answers this purpose completely. No declamation against tyranny could excite greater horror and disgust than the perusal of this volume. Considered in this view, it would be well worth recommending it to the perusal of young persons, at a time when

tyranny is making such dreadful strides to universal dominion, and when the spirit of liberty, the only power capable of arresting its progress seems to be sedulously repressed and stifled, by those who affect to be its defenders. The language is pure; the style exhibits to a great degree that pithy terseness which is the peculiar beauty of Attic composition.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Bard of Erin, and other Poems, mostly National. By James M'Henry. Smyth & Lyons, duodecimo, p.p. 80; price 3s. 4d.

THE Bard of Erin, and several other small Poems, by Mr. M'Henry, have recently been published in Belfast. To dwell with severity on productions, composed under disadvantages of a peculiar nature, as the Author states, and by a young man, would be an invidious task, and very distressing to the writer of this review. Yet however an allowable partiality to an Irishman's compositions may lead us to praise, truth and taste require also to condemn: and where faults are manifest it is necessary to point them out. The author who shows a good deal of poetic genius, may find benefit, the public something to guide, in a review of these poems. The Bard of Erin consisting of 154 lines, is not distinguished by much originality of thought, or strength of idea; the lines flow easily, but there are words in it, and expressions, not quite warranted by the usages of the English language, or at least they are inelegant.

"Rocks and Woods their glimmering
shades bestrode,

overcome with care,

Oft Erin's genius feels thy influence dear," are expressions we do not read with pleasure. The passage however, beginning, "ye guardian spirits of my country say," is good and spirited; the term, *barbarity*, is nevertheless extremely obscure, as it is very doubtful, to know the period, or the manner of Ireland's becoming barbarous according to the author's description.

The same remark applies to "hostile ignorance."

We have the lines further on;

"Nor feared in numbers all his soul to
give,
Sure from his sacred function *thou* to
live.

This is not elevating the character of the bard; we would much rather have seen the second line run thus;

"And taught his country's acts in verse
to live,

Taste hanging on the strings like dew on the plain, is not a happy image. (line 45)

The line

"Neglect, which breaks your heart and mine," is not poetical, and the whole part from line 20 to 30, though far from wanting merit; disappoints from an indefiniteness of term and meaning, and we can only gather, that Ireland was once covered with glory, and that barbarity and ignorance have injured her.

The poet then complains of the disadvantages of his situation, and informs us that love, and a wish for fame, first prompted his verse, and compares himself, we do not see with what justice, to Cathalore, an Irish Chieftain, who fell in battle.

The passage beginning at line 85, has some parts extremely good, and the sentiment and feeling displayed are highly deserving approbation.

"How'er I stand, my fortune's bolts
severe,

Still my degraded country draws the tear:
How long Ierue's genius wilt thou mourn,
The wreaths of all thy ancient glories

How long shall Poetry, celestial maid,
Tune thy pathetic harp in sorrow's shade!
How long the ardour of thy children lie,
Doom'd to the caves of cold obscurity;
Rouse, rouse, to all thy former self return,
Instruct thy sons with native warmth to
burn;

Make in their breasts their father's virtues
glow,
Their guardian Angels shall their aid
bestow;

Light, life and glory spread their genial
sky,

And prejudice the hallow'd region fly;"

After the song of the bard we are
told, "the trees, the rocks, and moun-
tain cliffs appeared to move." "The
moon-light vale was overcast with mist."
"A virgin harper," who proves to be
the Genius of Ireland, is seen.

"With gold and purple were her temples
crowned,

Beset with stars and flaming rubies round,
Of heavenly mould the harp on which she
played,

In holy wreaths of shamrock green ar-
rayed."

The genius of Erin is not much
indebted to the Author for the dress
he gives her, and the ornaments of
her head are very little accordant
with the wreaths, which deck the harp.

The genius informs the bard in a
very flattering manner how he is to
be rewarded.

"Long have I proudly marked the gene-
rous pain,

Which heaven approves, nor will approve
in vain,

But round thy brows shall glory's palm en-
twine,

For ever due to patriot worth like thine,
For know, thy sweet enthusiastic lays,

Shall reap thy dearest meed, ETERNAL
PRAISE."

This is certainly not undervaluing
himself, and we think is rather has-
tily bestowing "glory's palm" on what
is here called patriot worth.

A prophecy is then made,
"An age of joy to Erin will appear,
A glorious age, and 'tis already near."

Here the genius forgets Erin a little
to compliment Britannia, and tells
the bards to pour their "noblest rage,"
on the occasion of her lending her
succour to the former. A high and de-
served compliment is paid to Belfast.
The conclusion is extremely obscure,
and we lament very much, that we are
compelled to repeat this kind of remark,

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as the author's intentions appear good,
and time, study, and the criticism of an
enlightened friend, would have prevented
our disagreeable task of reprehension.
We observe the word *Liberty*, is not once
mentioned in this poem, or indeed we
believe in the whole book!

The recurrence to the ancient times of
Ireland, brings a thousand heart rend-
ing recollections, and we think the Bard
of Erin ought, if he spoke at all on the
subject, to have spoken more boldly and
explicitly. The want of true knowledge
of the state of Ireland, of studying the
disposition of its inhabitants, and of con-
ciliation in the treatment of them have
caused this country much misery. The
hand should not tremble in touching the
strings of Erin's harp, and the Bard
should remember in recording other
times, that its tones are sometimes mar-
tial, as well as plaintive, or *pathetic*.

In the notes, Mr. Arthur O'Neil is
described as the *only Harper in Ireland*.
Patrick Quin, of Portadown, has per-
haps superior merit to O'Neil. There
is a harper in Drogheda. Another, a fe-
male in Dublin, and doubtless several
in the South, and West. The author
has been therefore rather hasty in point-
ing out Mr. O'Neil, as the sole perfor-
mer on that charming and venerable in-
strument, the Irish harp. The poem
of Caithalore, taken from Irish history,
shews great ease in forming sonorous
lines, and is very respectable on account
of the source from whence it is taken.

In the 23rd. line, we presume its an
error in the press, when we see

"Stout ~~were~~ his heart, that met thee on
the field,"

The comparison,

"As sinners sink in heaven's avenging
hour,"

is in itself puerile; applied to a tyrant
and warrior, it seems ludicrous.

The last lines of Caithalore's speech,
with the exception of the word *bore*,
have considerable merit.

"Death's direst form my bosom can
defy,

And in the cause of virtue, pants to die.
My daughter, now from ruin, guilt, & thee,
By heaven's protecting arm, and mine set
free,

Shall bless with tears, the death her father
bore,

And Bards shall spread the fame of Caitha-
lore."

The tale of Edward and Eliza shews great goodness of heart, tho' it has not much interest. It is liable to the faults we have adverted to as to language.

"I could not help to love him dear,"

is one instance among others. The whole resembles Goldsmith's Edwin and Angelina.

Corun and Lora, has some very pretty stanzas, and the story of it is similar to that of "*La folle par amour*" a beautiful little French dramatic piece. It is on that subject which is always affecting and melancholy; where the understanding is lost, from the effects of disappointed love, who can refuse sympathy, that has known what it is to feel? but if it is a young and beautiful girl, who is represented labouring under such insanity, what heart can avoid the throb of anguish at her situation; what eye can retain the tear of joy at her recovery?

The following lines we would wish to have been corrected before going to the press:

"When our souls to each other we swore,
Is a sovereign remead for the mind."

On the whole, tho' the Author has not, at the critical moment of restoration to understanding, in our opinion, made the passage as affecting as he might have done, yet his tale is pretty, and the selection of the subject, shews sensibility, and discernment.

The elegy written on the Inver, near Larne Church-yard, is an imitation, and not a happy one, of Gray's unrivalled elegy.

The songs on the seasons, particularly Spring, are pleasing, and manifest observation of nature, the true volume for the poet's study. The song called the Exile's return is in some parts very poetical.

The use of the words *pathos* and *pathetic* thro' the poems is not agreeable at least to our ear, and we think *passion* or *plaintive* would have answered generally better. *Nationality* is a word also, which we object to as a vague term. We conclude this critique by assuring the author, that we sincerely wish for his welfare, & that we reckon on his future improvement. He has dared to meet the public eye: there was courage in the attempt. As an Irishman publishing in his own province, he deserves consideration for his youth and retired situation, and

encouragement for the proofs of genius he has given. But it is due to our country and ourselves, to shew that we can praise without blindness, and discern faults, which might otherwise be supposed to receive general approbation or acquiescence. The true object for the poet or the critic, is to instruct, amuse or delight: utility is never to be lost sight of.

The improvement of the taste and mind is naturally advanced by good poetry; the former may be spoiled or blunted by the perusal of the inferior and vulgar kind, the latter receives no addition to its stores by it. Poetry is therefore a public property, which ought not to pass unobserved.

We rejoice to see the efforts of our country-man; and we look to future similar attempts with pleasure.

Poetry exalts the mind, it carries it back to remote times, makes it disdain mercenary ideas, and leads to the expression of pure morality, and exalted and vigorous patriotism. We shall take our leave of our author by referring him to the beautiful part of the *Eneid*, where the poet sings to his harp the most sublime subjects. We recommend to him the example, and we trust he may merit and obtain similar applause.

.....Citharâ crinitus Iopas,
Personat auratâ, docuit quæ maximus
Atlas.
Hic canit errantem Lunam, Solisque labores,
Unde hominum genus, et pecudes: unde
imber, et ignes:
Arcturum, pluviasque Hyadas, geminasque
Triones:
Quid tantum Oceano properant se tingere
soles
Hyberni, vel quæ tardis mora noctibus
obstat.
Ingeminant plausum Tyrîi, Troësque
sequuntur.

*Le Comte de Corke surnommé le Grand,
ou Seduction sans Artifice; suivi de
cinq Nouvelles. Par Madame de
Genlis; 12mo. 2vols. p. p. 468.
Colburn, London, 1808.*

(Concluded from P. 59, No. VI.)

DURING his residence with Sir C. Manwood, Richard finds some opportunities of doing good offices to Lady Ranelagh and her friend; but

also discovers a rival in his employer, who in the full confidence of his own superiority, never suspected that his low-born secretary could have excited a flame in the heart to which he himself made pretensions. At this time the Earl of Essex having returned to Ireland, pays a visit to Sir Charles's villa, he recognizes Richard, and repeats those flattering expressions which had first roused his infant ambition, and which now tended to confirm the increasing partiality of his mistress. Several circumstances of a trivial nature, which more fully develop the contrary characters of the man of fortune and the child of fortune now occur, by means of which he rivets himself more firmly in the esteem of the man he admired, and the affections of the woman he loved. Essex retires, and is shortly after arrested by order of the queen. Sir Charles, whose eyes had been opened by Lady Ranelagh's rejection of his proposals, for nothing is more quick-sighted than jealousy, had already conceived a rooted hatred to Richard, in consequence of which this young man quitted his family, and retired again to his original obscure retreat. But he was not allowed long to remain here. His rival was too accomplished a courtier not to crush an enemy when in his power. The intimacy between Richard and the Earl of Essex was now alleged as a crime against the former. In consequence an order arrived for his arrest. His destiny now seemed to be decided. He determines to surrender without even giving an intimation of his purpose to Lady Ranelagh; from an idea, that he will either suffer death or banishment among a number of others involved in the same accusation, equally obscure as himself, and thus spare his mistress, of whose affection he feels himself secure, the pain of hearing of his sufferings until they are terminated. But what can escape the penetrating eye of love? Lady Ranelagh hears of the circumstance, and being sensible that his misfortunes are caused by the persecution of Sir C. Manwood, which originated in her refusal of his addresses, she offers to unite her fortunes and interests with him. He still resists the temptation; the same principle still actuates him; he will merit

before he accepts the prize, and goes to England, there to await the development of his fate. Lady Ranelagh on hearing of his departure follows him to London, determined to make every sacrifice to a man who has proved himself so worthy of her esteem.

Shortly after his arrival he is brought before the Queen to be examined, and contrary to the expectation of his vindictive enemy is confronted with him. Here he enters into a detail of his conduct so clear and convincing that all opposition is silenced; he is not only acquitted but raised to a degree of favour, to which the highest flight of his ambitious fancy could scarcely have dared to aspire. To complete his felicity, he soon after received the hand of the woman, whose affections he had so nobly conquered.

Such is the outline of this interesting little tale; in which a few facts are so artfully wound up with a number of fictitious circumstances as to excite at times a momentary appearance of reality. We do not pretend to say that it is without its faults; among these the predominant are a tediousness in the conversations, a refinement of sentiment beyond nature and truth, and an attention to trivial circumstances. But on the grand points of morals and mental improvement which we think most necessary to be attended to in works of this nature, it is blameless. We cannot however conclude without some animadversion on the title, which seems to have been prefixed as a lure to purchasers, and savours too much of the style of those modern novels, as "the Natural Son," "Innocent Adultery," and others, whose very name excites an expectation in a certain class of readers that something is contained within suited to gratify the appetite of a fervent depraved imagination. Here is neither seduction nor artifice. The Earl of Corke is conscious he is beloved, and acts with open undisguised sincerity on that conviction. He uses no artifice, he employs no seduction: Lady Ranelagh is in love with his merits before she attaches herself to the man. It is a title, which, while it attracts the attention of those who would throw aside the volume, were they preinformed of its contents, excludes it from the view of those who could appreciate its worth, and profit by the maxims it contains.

The story, an outline of which we have now given; occupies but a part of the two volumes; the remainder is filled by five of what are here styled novels, but should be properly called moral tales. The first is the relation of a most singular penance inflicted by a husband on a wife guilty of infidelity. The idea is novel, and all the circumstances are singular and interesting. The second, styled the *Lovers without Love*, is of a very different cast from the rest; it contains more of modern French manners and intrigue. Indeed it scarcely deserves the name of moral tale, as the only deduction to be drawn from it is, that unhappiness is the consequence of marriages arising from love, while those who marry from what are generally called prudential motives, obtain that felicity which the other vainly flattered themselves with. Its name is also faulty: *Lovers without Love* is a contradiction in terms, unbecoming a writer of sense or taste. The third and fourth are fairy tales; the moral is good, but this manner of deducing a moral we have always thought exceptionable. The interference of supernatural beings serves only to bewilder the imagination; they have no prototype in nature; the mind, when interested, is raised into an ideal creation, whence it, descends unwillingly into the common haunts of life; and the conclusions drawn from such agents are generally supposed to partake of the impossibility of the source from whence they spring.

But the disappointment accruing from the perusal of these is well repaid by the perusal of that which concludes the volume. It is a tale founded on nature, and calculated to excite the tenderest, finest feelings of the soul. It is the story of two sisters, twins, whom the impartial fondness of a mother has educated with such scrupulous impartiality that the similarity of features bestowed by nature, was rendered still more striking by a corresponding similarity of character impressed by habit. The little incidents tending to illustrate this coincidence of manners are introduced with great delicacy and judgment; they are the production of a person who has felt and studiously discriminated the va-

rious distinguishing shades of the female character, in its highest state of purity and refinement. The sisters are described as living with that union of sentiment which is so seldom to be found, even between those whom mutual choice has bound in the most solemn tie of mutual affection; they are but one soul inhabiting two bodies, until the arrival of a stranger, who loves one of them, and is equally loved in return, dissipates the pleasing illusion, and for a time dissolves an union formed by nature, and increasing with increasing years. The termination is melancholy; yet even such a catastrophe is the parent of a pleasure peculiar in its nature. The moral arising from it is forcible and impressive. Q.

Woman: or Ida of Athens, by Miss
Owenson, 4 vols. 12mo. p. p. 979.
Longman Hurst and Rees, London,
1809.

SIMONIDES (to a learned lady we may talk of learned men) Simonides (yet it may be necessary for the information of some of our readers who have not dived as deep in classic lore as the writer of the pages now before us, to acquaint them that he was a poet, who has written some verses on the characters of women, more celebrated for wit than politeness) Simonides, who, though a Grecian, does not express that enthusiastic admiration of those animated models of the fairest of God's works, that seems to have taken possession of Miss Owenson's imagination, divides the female species into nine classes, attributing to each a character derived from some animal whose qualities were blended in it when moulded by the Gods. Some, says he, were formed from the cat, some from the monkey, some from the mare, some from the ass, and a few from the Bee. We have during the perusal of the work now before us, amused ourselves with guessing to what description of clean or unclean beasts, he would have referred the class of novel-writers, had such a race of non-descript animals existed in his days. He would not improbably have said that their souls were formed from that of the spider, incessantly spinning an endless worthless

web from its own body, for the sole purpose of catching flies to feed on. For of all the creatures that ever nature gave birth to, a novel writer, employing the talents and industry and ingenuity bestowed on it for some good purpose, in the cause of indolence and idleness and vicious indulgence, is the most disgusting. The philosopher may pause for a moment to inspect the fabrick, may view with melancholy admiration the ill-employed labour with which it draws its long winded thread, the perverted ingenuity with which it winds its intricate meanders to catch the unwary victims of its arts, the resolution and perseverance with which, when its first labours are lost or rendered useless it recommences its toils; but immediately on turning from it, treads the reptile under foot as a nuisance to society; and the web which it has formed, after remaining a short time through indolence in the walks and haunts of man, is swept away, and consigned to the oblivion whence it should never have been extricated.

To this class must be referred every work of imagination whose main object is not instruction. Like poetry it admits of no medium; it must be either good or bad: and if the former does not predominate, if a clear plain useful moral does not shew itself throughout the volume, not elicited by an exertion of the mind, but presenting itself spontaneously to the understanding we should not hesitate for a moment in forming our decision. It matters not what may be its other merits: The interest of narrative, the charm of style and composition diminish rather than encrease its claims to our approbation; the beauties and external accomplishments of a female who has once lost that which gave them their true charm, become the most dangerous instruments of seduction.

It is with unfeigned regret that we are compelled to refer the work before us to this class. If we sympathize with the feelings of our countrymen, who raise the character of their native soil in the literary world, if we feel a glow of honest pride at the praises they receive, and say within ourselves "I too am an Irishman:"

what must be our emotions, when justice not only forbids us to praise, but calls upon us to censure and condemn. Our attachment to our country and our respect to the female sex, combine in making our decision more forcible and determined. We cannot approve of what reflects no credit on the former, and when a woman appears before the public, it should be from a strong sense of public duty: her intention should be clearly and unequivocally demonstrated.

From the name bestowed upon this Novel, Miss Owenson appears to have intended her heroine as a model for her sex's imitation. The observations about to be made will shew the model to be faulty and dangerous. She seems also to have resorted to a method resorted to by the apostles of the new philosophy, of making works of fancy a vehicle for their peculiar opinions. They did it for the purpose of disseminating their principles more widely. Had they been confined to treatises written for the purpose, they would have been little read, and therefore little harm could accrue from them. But being thus intruded on the public in an unsuspected manner and in places where there was little opportunity of controverting them, and falling into the hands of a class of readers accustomed to take opinions on trust, they stole upon the mind and were rooted there before their dangerous tendency was suspected. We are far from attributing any such intention to the author of the present work. But a writer should be very cautious of publishing without the most mature and deliberate investigation, new or peculiar opinions on these great points of morality, on which the welfare of society depends.

With respect to the narrative, or what in poetry is called the fable, there are two commonplace modes of arrangement, two beaten paths in which the great tribe of novel-mongers who find it more congenial to their talents to imitate than invent, trudge along this flowery path to fame. In the one, the heroine, for the principal character of a novel now-a-days must be a female, is gradually raised from obscurity by an unexpected train of

circumstances, to fortune and rank. In the other, a well known character sinks gradually from wealth to poverty, and the reader's interest is excited by her struggles to rise; or her fortitude in bearing up against its evils. Miss Owenson has chosen the last. It is with no small degree of surprise that we find her condescending to follow when she had given proofs of invention and originality in a former work.

A Grecian Merchant, who had realized a fortune at the price of his health and peace of mind in England, returned to his native country and settled at Athens, in which city his brother, one of the antient nobility of Attica, resided. The daughter of this brother is the heroine of the tale. From her uncle she received the rudiments of an education which in our author's opinion was to render her superior to the rest of her sex. The system chosen by her, borders very closely on that so ably depicted in the "Modern Philosophers;" all was left to nature; energies do every thing. "Every Jill," says the old proverb, "must have her Jack." A heroine is nothing without a sympathizing hero. Such a one is introduced in the character of a young slave of the Disdar Aga (we like these high-sounding names, particularly where they tinkle like Greek) vulgarly called the Turkish Military Governor of the city. He introduces himself like his renowned progenitors in Romance by killing a huge wolf, shooting at a mark, and relieving the distressed. After the first interview, which is decisive of the future destinies of the two principal characters, we see no more of him until Ida again appears in public, where he attends her disguised like an Armenian, but in attempting to rescue an injured Greek from the fury of a party of Janissaries, discovers himself, is seized and carried prisoner before the Aga. Ida throws herself before the judge's feet and pleads for the victim. Her arguments, when addressed to a Turk who despised the Greeks and hated their religion, are somewhat singular; and must have been powerfully aided by the *lightning of the eye, the panting bosom, the clustering tresses,*

the soul-beaming expression, the white and rounded arms of Ida.

"No," says she, "he shall not, must not die,—die! Gracious God! for what? for defending the rights of nature; of freedom, of humanity; It was a Greek, a poor compatriot, he saved! it was age and feebleness he succoured, it was bigotry he struck at! it was tyranny he opposed. He now appears before you, not to receive death, but to demand retribution. He stands before you the representative of his injured country, violated in her dearest principles, denied her dearest rights—*oppressed, debased, and wounded, &c.*"

Yet it had its effects. Osmyn is liberated on condition of quitting the country, but remains in secret at the house of Ida's uncle. Here their mutual intimacy increased. Each is deeply enamoured of the other, not only without discovering their mutual sentiments, but even without knowing their own. At length however an opportunity occurs, too tempting to both author and actors, to escape. Osmyn breaks the ice. His style of making love is equally sublime with that of his Mistress's pleadings.

"If we might speculate on heavenly joys we should attribute to them an influence such as these awaken—heavens! what a language to a soul that feels! what words, what tongue, what looks can give the heart's emotion utterance—Lady! you saved my life—Oh! more—you gave me new existence; and yet—even now—in moments such as these—so near, you too—so unobserved—I dare not—must not—cannot speak my feelings!"

Ida answers very reasonably, "*and wherefore need you?*" a reply which in our opinion was sufficient to bring down Eschylus himself from his laurbics.

Osmyn however has a rival. The Aga, Turk as he is, falls in love with Ida; she visits his daughter Jumeli in the citadel; Osmyn is jealous; this, together with a thunder storm, gives rise to another love scene. Osmyn increases in *pathos*. In his first attempt he lost his speech; he is now about to lose his life, but is raised again to existence by the voice of Ida.

The Aga, on his part suspects the intimacy, and persuades her father, who is represented as a weak, turbulent, discontented, factious citizen, proud of his birth and fortune, a character by

no means ill designed or badly drawn, to recall her from her uncle's: she returns, and shortly after her uncle's death is announced by Osmyn: This is the only time he appears in her father's presence, who cannot brook the idea of his daughter's union with a slave. However some love-letters pass between them, in which Ida, like a dutiful daughter, refuses to have a private interview with Osmyn. At length however he touches the string to which her soul vibrates. He had been engaged in a conspiracy to throw off the Turkish yoke: he declares that he will relinquish the cause unless he be inspired by her approbation. Ida was a patriot: what she refused to love, she grants to her country. They meet at midnight, are surprised by her father and the Aga: the former secures his daughter, but the other is put to flight by Osmyn, who thus escapes.

A scene of a different nature now presents itself. Osmyn, who, though he knew that the desire of seeing her country liberated from the yoke of the infidels was the favourite wish of Ida, and that to make himself worthy of her was the principal idea that occupied his soul, yet, by a strange perversity of thought very unbecoming a hero, and inconsistent with the

character which he is intended to support, neglects the friends with whom he had associated for this purpose, and employs the time that should have been spent in forwarding their preparations, in the boyish pleasure of dangle after Ida. At one time we hear of him loitering under the walls of the Acropolis (*vulgo*, the Citadel) at another piping under Ida's chamber or gazing up at her window. In short in reading this tale we may lay it down as a general rule very necessary to explain certain obscure passages and confused incidents, that, like a pair of magpies, whenever we meet with one of these lovers, the other is not far off.

However when Osmyn has lost his mistress he thinks of his friends, and after making use of a pitiful falshood to excuse his negligence, they proceed to business. A debate follows, in the conduct of which we would have advised Miss O. to have studied "Venice preserved," where she would have met with a history of a conspiracy painted in true colours. The Turkish Aga discovers their place of meeting, a guard of Janizaries is sent to seize them, a battle ensues, in which numbers and discipline prevail over patriotism; the Athenians are routed, slaughtered, and their leader taken prisoner.

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A Letter to the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Castlereagh, on the Military Establishment of the Country, by S. Bridge. 2s. 6d.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

BRITISH Politics have usually been divided into FOREIGN and DOMESTIC, but, with the exception of a few ports in the south of Spain, the continent of Europe appears to be almost, if not altogether closed against these countries, and never, perhaps since their first discovery by the Tyrians, have the British Isles been so confined in their intercourse with the world. From the Dardanelles, where Mr. Adair remains on board his frigate, waiting probably for a new revolution in Constantinople, the last having happened under the influence of the French; from the Dardanelles to the Baltic, where Admiral Keates is stated to be most unfortunately frozen up, near the coast of Zealand, with one ship of the line and from

16 to 20 English vessels, there does not appear, in this extent of coast, any safe or free footing for Englishmen, but on the rock of Gibraltar.

In Sweden the late events leave little hope that the reception of British vessels, in her ports, can much longer be tolerated. It is rumoured, indeed, that discontents have been manifested not only among the Swedish Nobility but through all ranks of people in that country, nor is it surprizing, that the honest, plain, and sensible Swede should be puzzled to find out any possible reason, except the *personal* one of £100,000, per month, subsidy from Britain, which can operate for a continuance of a war with the united powers of France and Russia, a war totally without public

end or advantage, and which has already occasioned a dismemberment of the kingdom. No doubt the general discontent is instigated in some degree, both by the French and the Russian parties, and it is not the first example of the present times where the follies and errors of the sovereign have been suffered to proceed to such a length, as to afford a plausible ground for the interference of Bonaparte, and an accommodation in consequence to the new organization of Europe.

From *Portugal*, the exclusion of the British, if it has not actually taken place, appears inevitable. The British troops have been withdrawn from Elvas, and the other frontier towns; the fortresses of St. Julien, and Belesme, dismantled; Oporto occupied by the French shortly after the engagement at Corunna, and Lisbon itself has been left like Madrid, to the defence of the inhabitants, and to the virtue of patriotic proclamations. It is at best but a sort of fungous patriotism, which such publications are calculated to excite among an inert, and illiterate people; and the truth is, that, throughout the whole peninsula, including Spain with Portugal, the inhabitants have been so long kept, by the voluntary neglect of government, in a state of moral and intellectual debasement, that when the hour arrives which calls for the best energies of human nature, it becomes easier to summon up the ghosts of the dead, than a spirit in the living.

Bonaparte, it is said, is about to make a new line of demarcation in the peninsula, or rather to revive the old one first adopted by Charlemagne, in which Portugal is to be reunited to Spain, and Lisbon that grand Port, lying so favourably to the western ocean, will probably become the great naval emporium. The Ebro to be made the eastern boundary of the kingdom, and Biscay, Navarre, Arragon, and Catalonia are to be added to France. Thus the passes of the mountains will remain in the possession of the French, and the figure of speech which Louis the XIV. made use of to Philip of Anjou, when he placed him on the throne of Spain, will be realized; "Henceforth there

are to be no Pyrenees." The Pyrenees seem to have operated as a sort of natural bar to the improvement of Spain, by cutting it off from the rest of Europe, and on their political removal, the Spaniards will probably rise to a higher European value, and a more just estimation, by a readier communication with the nations on the continent. The Merino sheep have hitherto enjoyed more of the notice of government in this part of the world, than the melioration of society; and Spain furnishes one of many examples to prove that the vices and virtues of a people are almost always the effect of a bad or a good legislation; producing either that vilification which gradually beggars the national character, or that self-valuation, which makes a people respected by their Government. Man in the full and quiet possession of all his rights, never fails to pay a just attention to the performance of his duties. How many experiments to improve the breed of inferior animals! how few to educate men to the high destination of which they are capable!

Of the state of *Spain*, since the evacuation of Corunna, it is not easy to speak with certainty. We have been the victims of misinformation, and, if the Juntas have done their utmost to keep their own country in the dark, it cannot be expected that the real situation, either of military, or political affairs, will be known in Great Britain. In the centre of Spain, it is said, that the van of the Duke of Infantado's army consisting of 12,000 men, is dispersed or destroyed, that he himself, denominated in the French Buletins, *a man of straw*, had retired to Albaciti; that Reding's army in Catalonia has experienced nearly the same fate, and that there is now scarcely any body of Spanish troops collected in any part of the South, and South-eastern parts of the peninsula. It is indeed inconceivable that any effectual resistance can be made against the French armies by the natives of Spain in the open field; a resistance at all times extremely problematical, but now wholly impracticable, and it is extremely probable that the supreme Junta, has by this time, intimated to

the British Cabinet, the necessity of succumbing to the French usurpation. Joseph has made his triumphal entry into Madrid, and received the homage of all the constituted authorities. The expedition to Cadiz, under General Sherbrooke, will throw light upon our future connexion with the Spanish nation, and will decide whether they are in future to profess themselves the friends, or to be classed among the enemies of Britain. The convoy which consisted of forty vessels, had been dispersed, but has since proceeded from Cork, with 24 transports, to the place of their destination. The Spaniards according to the last accounts, were busy in strengthening the fortifications of Cadiz, but if it be an object of the British expedition to take the French fleet from our allies, to whose faith and honour it was submitted; this will, it is to be feared, be a source of serious dissension, fatal to the treaty so lately ratified; and the attack of Cadiz by the British may have consequences similar to those which resulted from the affair at Copenhagen. On the 28th ult. no English troops had arrived, nor was it known that the Spanish Government would admit an English garrison into the fortress of Cadiz. The arrival in London, of that most experienced diplomatic character, Don Pedro Cevallos, may prevent any misunderstanding arising between the Junta and the British Cabinet, but it may be perhaps improper to place implicit confidence in the communications of this pendulating politician, as evidence of the unanimous resolution of the people of Spain. There has been much of mutual duplicity in the whole business, and if the Spanish nation be true to itself, it will wish no longer to be made a pretext for the introduction or continuance of civil war in their country, with all its calamitous consequences. On much the same principle that Dumourier was distrusted, Don Pedro Cevallos ought not to pass the antichamber, much less partake in the confidence of the Cabinet. It now appears certain that there always has been a powerful party in Spain, attached to the interests of France, and that this

party has its share even in the military councils of the Junta.

General Liniers has raised the standard of independence in *South America*, and declared his intentions to shake off the dominion of Spain. He maintains his power over the whole viceroyalty, with the exception of the district of Monte Video, which has proclaimed Ferdinand VII. and established a Junta for the management of their affairs. Liniers is suspected of partiality to the French, and a civil war will probably be soon kindled in these colonies.

The treaty with the Junta of Seville is said to be ratified, exchanged, and ready to be laid on the table of the two houses of Parliament. We are to be allowed to assist in the garrisons of Cadiz, Carthagena, Cueta, and Minorca, during the war.

An immediate attack is projected by Murat, against the island of *Sicily*, the result of which, in its present state, must be contemplated with serious apprehension.

In the island of *Jamaica*, a difference between the executive and legislative authorities, disturbs the tranquillity of the island, and hitherto there is no prospect of conciliation. The house of assembly vindicates its right, as grand inquest of the island, to investigate the circumstances of a mutiny which happened at Fort Augusta, and of compelling the commander in chief, to give evidence before them, as to the facts of that mutiny. The inhabitants of the island join with the assembly, and the Governor takes part with the Commander in chief.

In *America*, the President, Mr. Madison, and Vice President, Mr. Clinton, have been elected by the peaceable expression of the public will, and whatever agitation this election may have occasioned among the people; individually, it has never had the smallest effect upon their political union. The embargo (first passed 22d, December 1807) is still in force, and enacts that all persons infringing the act, are to be held guilty of a high misdemeanour, and to forfeit treble the value of the merchandize connected with the offence. The inform-

er to have half the value on conviction. The Non-intercourse bill (2d. January 1809) prohibits all ships entering the harbours of the United States, belonging either to Great Britain or France, and imposes fine and imprisonment upon persons assisting in such purposes, the vessels and cargoes to be seized and condemned. The eleventh section empowers the President to abrogate this act so far as relates to Great Britain or France, should the Orders in Council of the one, or Decrees of Berlin of the other, be rescinded. It is said that the law for enforcing the Embargo is to be repealed, when the non-intercourse act becomes operative, but the dates of its commencement are still uncertain, and it is highly probable it will not commence till June next, in which interval the British Government may take advantage of the eleventh section.

In a debate in the House of Lords, in which Lord Grenville moved an address to his majesty to rescind the Orders in Council, the question against the motion was carried by a division of 115 against 70, a very formidable minority, and whose union, and exertions may yet be successful. It was stated in the debate, that from the operation of these Orders in Council, the diminution of our commerce has become of alarming magnitude amounting in one year ending 20th October, 1808, to a diminution of £6,200,000 in the exports, and of £5,200,000, in the imports, in which statement neither Ireland nor Scotland, a great part of whose trade was with America, is included; and giving to them a proportional share, the diminution of commerce may be fairly estimated at £14,000,000. In the article of wool, the staple commodity, and in many other articles, an alarming diminution has taken place, and also in the importation of raw materials essential to our manufactures, a number of cotton mills have been stopped, and the workmen thrown out of employ; £14,000 has been subscribed at Manchester for the relief of manufacturers out of employment. In Lancashire there were 30,000 weavers subsisting on charity. The great importance of the linen manufacture of

Ireland is well known, and the difficulty of procuring flax-seed is at present a serious evil; of 45,000 bogsheads required for sowing, 35,000 must be procured from America. The price of flax-seed has risen from 2 to £3 a quarter, to from 22 to 24. It is now February, and if the necessary quantity of flax-seed be not procured before May, the consequences will indeed be serious. The prospect at present was that in the course of next summer half a million would be thrown out of employment in the North of Ireland. The Orders in Council, unjust in their principle, are now proved to be most injurious in their effects to the interests of this country, whilst the pretence on which they were founded is now completely taken away, it being proved to a demonstration that America does not acquiesce in the infringement of her neutral rights, by the decrees of France. The result of this debate in the House of Lords still leads us to a more confident expectation, that the wise system of self-defensive neutrality, adopted by the American States, and their consistency and determination in maintaining it, will operate most powerfully in procuring peace to the world.

The War indeed goes on, without having any very evident end to be attained, but continues as it were by *habit*; so many classes of the community are interested in its continuance; the military organization of the country is so completed (the effective army amounting to 210,614, of which there are 27,376 Cavalry, and the effective militia of the three kingdoms amounting to 81,577 rank and file, while the navy consists of 130,000 seamen, including 31,000 marines) the facility of supporting so great an establishment being reduced at length to such a *system*, and the ways and means, at all times, so cheerfully and readily supplied. In short, the resources of the country have been converted by the financiering abilities of Mr. Pitt, into an instrument so readily attained, and so easily disposable, that even the most moderate ministry find themselves irresistibly tempted to follow up the war, without well knowing where it is about to lead them,

rather than risqué the disorganization of the military system, and the partial injury resulting from peace to several classes of the community. One great source of national calamity in the indefinite prolongation of the war, has we think arisen from the domestic coalition first strongly connected by Pitt, we mean the mutual understanding, and strict junction of the ministry in power, with the commercial interest, by which every scheme of ambition has been facilitated to the one, and war itself has been turned into a sort of speculation to reward the other. It is from this intimate alliance and collusion of the ministerial and monied interests, that a fatal fallacy has been propagated with success, through every rank in society, viz. that the preservation of our rights and privileges, the salvation of the constitution, even the very existence of the nation are indissolubly and necessarily implicated with a *certain* extension of commerce, and a *certain* degree of maritime ascendancy. Thus, the union of two party interests, with respect to the Empire, have gained such influence over private opinion, as, in its consequences, to compromise the public safety, and induce a belief that the prolongation of the war is altogether necessary and unavoidable. Do your best to secure to us the monopoly of the world, and we will go every length to secure to you, the ways and means for carrying on the war. Such is the compact, and even when cut off from the continent, the colonies of South America glitter in speculation. Thus the respective parties transfuse their actuating principles into each other; the principle of the mercantile system, rejected by true philosophy, is still cherished as a ruling maxim of state; and the commercial interest becomes actuated and infected with the ambition of the Cabinet, and the spirit of adventure; and hence must result not an open, enlarged, and generous policy, but a sort of politico-commercial, Carthaginian policy, which injures, and degrades the British character in the estimation of foreign nations. It is only by a

revival of the true British policy, equally wise and magnanimous, which seats itself on the square and sound-set basis of the rights of Man (and we scorn the man, who would vilify the sacred worth of the expression) extending these blessings to all with whom it wishes alliance or connexion; it is only by such generous policy, that Britain can *overreach* Bonaparte, and by making this policy the practical guide of her foreign relations, she may yet be able to redeem the world.

With respect to the DOMESTIC branch of British politics, the public attention has been wholly absorbed in the examination carried on in the House of Commons; a parliamentary inquiry altogether unexpected, either by Ministry or Opposition. Our opinion of its importance is such, that we believe it may lead to all the beneficial effects of a revolution, without any of its horrors. Not only the mere subject before the House, but the House itself, in the words of Mr. Wilberforce, is put *on trial* before the scrutinizing tribunal of public opinion; and we think the nation highly indebted to Mr. Perceval and the other ministers, in bringing the matter before the *whole house*, whatever might be their feelings, and their fears of giving personal offence, by this display of public duty. They perhaps had little foresight of all the consequences of this procedure; but the subject is now elevated, by *their* means, upon a stage so high as to attract the attention of Europe; and the House of Commons is now called on to vindicate in the sight of mankind the virtue of the British constitution, which protects the lowest, and will not be contaminated by the corruption of the highest order, with impunity. Never will there occur a more grand opportunity of accomplishing such a reformation in the manners and morals of a country, as may help to avert the judgments of Heaven; and if Britain be destined to sink in the present contest, to call forth the sympathy of the present, and future ages in her fall.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

DISTILLATION FROM GRAIN.

On Thursday the 9th instant, a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of Belfast was held in the Exchange-rooms, pursuant to public notice; for the purpose of taking into consideration the intended Bill for permitting distillation from grain in Ireland.

Edward May, Esq. Sovereign, being called to the chair, opened the business of the Meeting by stating, that when the legislature adopted the measure of prohibiting distillation from grain, they were induced thereto principally with a view to afford relief to the West India proprietors, who for want of a market for the productions of these islands, had been reduced almost to a state of ruin. The Government therefore adopted that measure, in order that the distillation from sugar in place of grain, might, by the consumption of that article, afford them the relief which justice and necessity required. Owing to an error which had occurred in the bill, the distillation from sugar had not taken place in this country. In England, Government had found the measure very effectual, and therefore it was to be continued there; but in Ireland, it was found that the moment the regular distilleries were stopped, the private distilleries commenced, and the supply of whiskey, and the consequent consumption of grain was as great as ever, whilst at the same time the revenue was deprived of the very great sums of money which the licensed distillers used to pay. But another consideration ought also to be attended to, and that was the regard that is due to the agricultural interests of the country, for it must be admitted, that the moment you stop distillation from grain, that moment you lay a check upon the enterprize of the farmer, and the improvements of agriculture.—In this view of the case it may be questioned, how far it would be proper for this meeting to take upon themselves to decide upon the utility or inutility of the measure, and whether it would not be better to delay farther procedures until a meeting of the county should be called, for undoubtedly the territorial, the landed interest is as deeply involved in the result as the mercantile. It might, perhaps, be represented, that the resolutions which this meeting may come to, were dictated by interested motives, or why give

such encouragement to the West India produce, and neglect the farming interest at home. As to the price of grain advancing in consequence of the proposed measure, he did not believe it would occasion much rise in the markets, for it was well known that there was an abundance of grain at this moment in the country. The hag-yards were never more plentifully stored than at present. An argument had sometimes been used, that distillation from grain ought not to be permitted on account of this country being deprived of all supply by importation from abroad; but it deserved attention, that by the ablest calculators in England it had been stated as a fact, that the greatest quantity of grain imported in any one year was not equal to the consumption of these countries for one week, nay, even for one day. The measures which Government had adopted to prevent private distillation, had hitherto proved ineffectual. At first it was thought that laying a fine of 50% upon the townland for every illegal still found in it, would check it, but it had not done so. He believed, however, it was in agitation to increase that to 500%. He again stated his opinion that it would be better to delay adopting any measure at present, and as three gentlemen had been sent from a meeting in Dublin to London, we ought to wait until we learn the result of their procedure. He further stated that he considered it to be his duty thus candidly and fairly to state his opinion upon the subject, and he assured the meeting that in doing so, he was not influenced by any party motives, he had no reason to be attached to the ministry in this measure, and God knows he was as little attached to the opposition. What he aimed at was to chuse that which should appear most for the interest of the country.

Mr. Getty, Mr. R. Davis, Mr. W. Tennent, and several other respectable inhabitants severally delivered their opinions in favour of an application to Government against the distillation from grain.—On this occasion, it was stated, that though the Legislature, when they resolved upon prohibiting distillation from grain, had in view, to afford relief to the West India Merchants, as stated by Mr. May, they had also another more important object in view, which had great weight in deciding the question at the time the Bill was passed, and that was to prevent the rise in the price of grain, being aware that

no supplies would be obtained from abroad, owing to the state of Europe. That at this present moment it became a question of the very first importance to consider, what influence the proposed measure of permitting distillation from grain would have upon the markets. The very rumour of it had already advanced the price fully 20 per cent. and it was a fact, that at present the prices were considerably higher than they were at the time when Government found it necessary to stop distillation; and higher than they were at the time of the year 1800, when it was deemed expedient by Government, to resort to the payment of high bounties, and in fact, to all the means in their power, for bringing from America, and other places, every species of grain that could afford relief in the scarcity which prevailed. It ought to be taken into consideration, that very great numbers of mechanics and different descriptions of working people, were at this time without employment. That there was great reason to apprehend that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been misinformed with regard to the quantity of grain consumed by the private distillers, for there were no authentic documents of ascertaining it, but at any rate it could not possibly be nearly equal to what was consumed by the licensed distillers. That in fact the question would assume this shape, whether the price of grain was just now as high as it ought to be, or whether it should be higher; for that must follow as a necessary consequence if distillation was to be permitted. The farmer, at the present moment, certainly had ample remuneration for his labour, and were the prices to be advanced, the poor would be reduced to great misery.

With regard to private distillation, it was certainly necessary that some more effectual measures ought to be taken to suppress it, for it was a well known fact, that at Magilligan Point a public market was held on Wednesday and Saturday in every week, for the purchase of grain and the sale of whiskey, and this was also well known to a number of official people.

The present could certainly never be considered a question of party, for all parties must look upon it as connected with the first interests of the country. The stoppage of the distilleries had already produced one beneficial effect, by preventing the lower ranks from indulging in the drinking of whiskey, so prejudicial to their morals, and making them resort to the use of beer, so beneficial to their health.—I cannot, said one gentleman, declare, as

several others have done, that I am wholly disinterested in the result of this measure, as I am certainly connected with the West India trade; yet I trust, that any interest I have in this respect, shall never make me swerve from what is right, in a matter so essential to the good of the country; and I hope that this question shall never be placed in that point of view, but that we shall calmly deliberate, and respectfully and temperately submit our opinion to the Legislature, with what information we can afford them, and after having done so, leave it with them to decide. As to waiting the result of the measures which the gentlemen who have gone from Dublin may pursue, it does not appear to be necessary, for undoubtedly there are many gentlemen here as capable of judging of the measure as those in any other part of the kingdom, the capital not excepted.

The Meeting then resolved unanimously that a petition should be presented to the Imperial Parliament, praying that the prohibition of the distillation from grain may be continued in Ireland.

The following Gentlemen were appointed a Committee to prepare the Petition, which is to be submitted to another General Meeting, to be held on Saturday at one o'clock, viz.—The Sovereign, Robert Getty, Esq. William Tennent, Esq. Robert Davis, Esq. Jos. Stevenson, Esq.

On Saturday a meeting was held in the Exchange Rooms, to receive the Report of the Committee. Edward May, Esq. Sovereign, having taken the chair, read the petition, which was unanimously approved of, and on the motion of Mr. Getty, it was resolved that the Sovereign should transmit the same to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that it might be laid before Parliament without delay.

Mr. May, jun. then rose and said, he was sorry to observe, that in the discussion of this subject at the last meeting, it seemed to be taken for granted, that the only object in view was to keep down the prices of grain, and to preserve that article of necessity for the supply of the poor. He, for one, entertained a very different opinion, and he would candidly declare it. He considered it to be a measure suggested by those who were interested in the sale of West India produce, rum and sugar.—He was strengthened in this opinion by what he had learned since he came into the room, that besides the petition which was about to be sent from this meeting, another was to be sent from the West India merchants. In that point of view it appeared to be a question not so much involving the interest of the poor, as the in-

terest of the rich. To what else could he attribute the precipitancy with which this measure had been gone into? Not a moment had been allowed to investigate facts, or inquire into the state of the hay-yards in the country. It had been stated that the crop of last year was deficient, but he certainly did not think so. Potatoes never were in greater abundance, and oats were also plentiful. He would not say it was a superabundant crop, but he would maintain it was a good crop. If the sole object in the contemplation of gentlemen was to provide for the necessities of the poor, why was it that they had overlooked that consideration upon a former occasion. This remark he would apply to some observations which he had formerly heard, that a number of artisans and labourers were without employment, owing to the scarcity of timber, flax, and other articles, usually imported from abroad. If regard to the interests of the poor was the sole object now in view, why was their interest so much neglected, why was no meeting called, when the Orders in Council were issued, to petition against them as tending to throw the working classes idle? Had he the smallest apprehension that the proposed measure would tend to distress the poor, he would be the last man to countenance it, but as he had no such apprehension he would therefore support it.

Mr. Davis stated, that in order to prove to the satisfaction of the meeting, what was the state of the grain in this country and what ideas were entertained by merchants of the probable rise of markets, he could inform them that he knew a respectable gentleman in the county of Tyrone, who dealt in grain, and such was his opinion of the probable rise of markets, that he had, previous to hearing any thing of the proposed measure by Parliament, gone towards the south of Ireland, in order to lay out every shilling he could spare, in the purchase of grain, for the consumption of the north, under the conviction that prices would rise.

Mr. Getty stated, that there could be no doubt of grain being higher in price now, than it was at the same period last year: and he knew for certain, that in Belfast market, potatoes had that very day been sold at 3s. 6d. per cwt.

Mr. Greenlaw said, he was very much surprised at the observations which had been made by Mr. May, that the present measure was not dictated by the necessities of the poor, but entirely from a regard to the interest of the rich. If Mr. May would chuse to have a demonstration of the fact, let him immediately divide the house, and then he would be able to determine whether it was West India

merchants alone that would vote for the measure. He could assure him, that he had a very extensive correspondence in various parts of the country, from all of which, his information led him to believe, that the last crop was generally defective. In the spring it was injured by the wet. In the summer months the appearance was more flattering; but in the harvest the wet again destroyed our hopes, and it was well known, that wheat in particular, was a very short crop. Potatoes were better in point of quantity, but were very bad in quality. Mr. May had stated that the hay-yards in the country were full; in many places they appeared to be so, but let him go and examine, and he will find they are principally filled with straw. He regretted much that any gentleman should argue as Mr. May appeared to do, from his regard to and connexion with the landed interest. He would do well to consider the situation in which this country stood at the present moment, precluded from all intercourse with America and the Baltic; nay the ports of the whole world shut against us. Whatever grain remains in Ireland should be husbanded by government. It might come to be the only resource the country could look to, for even a scanty subsistence. We could not ensure the ensuing harvest being a good one, but dreadful would be the consequences if it should fail. The consumption of grain by private distilleries was shameful; it was a reproach to the country, that a parcel of smugglers were able to defeat the object and the laws of the Imperial Parliament.

The Sovereign observed, that the other day when this subject was under discussion, he then took the liberty of stating his opinion very fully. He was still of the same opinion, that the measure which the Legislature had in view was best for the country. He did not believe that the prices in the markets could be greatly influenced by it; but even though they should be in some degree affected, and though the poor should experience a temporary inconvenience, it was certainly as fair that the former should at times partake of the advantages of an incidental rise in the markets as any other description of men. The best writers upon political economy were of opinion, that all interference upon subjects of this nature, were prejudicial and hazardous. He could not refer to higher authority than that of Dr. Adam Smith, an authority to which all of us must bow, and that able writer pointed out in the most satisfactory manner, that it was better to leave such subjects to their own tendency, as they would find their

own level. The right of petition ought always to be used with caution, and he recommended that to their consideration upon the present subject.

Dr. Forsythe said, that whatever idea some people might entertain respecting the interest which West India merchants had in question, surely no such idea could attach to him, and he declared it to be his candid opinion, that if the distilleries were permitted to work, the consequences would be very injurious to the country. He was fully convinced that the effect would be a material rise in the markets, which certainly were sufficiently high already. It undoubtedly was a very hazardous experiment under the present circumstances of Europe, which preclude us from all hope of relief if the ensuing harvest should fail. It had been stated that the laws were evaded, the object of Government defeated and the revenue defrauded. But why should this be? Why did not Magistrates do their duty? If Magistrates neglect the duty they owed to the public, why not change them; and if the revenue officers were not sufficiently vigilant, why were not others put in their places? Even if the laws were found defective, why not make new laws. All these measures he was of opinion ought to be tried by Government, rather than resort to what is now proposed, which might ultimately prove extremely hazardous to the most important interests of the country.

Some other Gentlemen said a few words, after which it was moved, that the thanks of the meeting be returned to the Sovereign for his readiness in calling this meeting, and for his conduct in the Chair. This passed unanimously.

The Sovereign said, he was extremely obliged by this mark of their approbation. They had heard him state that he did not approve of the object which they had in view, but though that was his own opinion he certainly felt it his duty to yield, when he found the general sentiment and the majority of the meeting so decidedly against him.

ANTRIM...Married... Mr. J. Brangers, of Antrim, to Miss Mary Ramage, of Ballymony. Mr. John Bankhead, to Miss Lurting, of N. Limavaddy. Mr. Austen M'Connell, to Miss Armstrong. Mr. John Gibby, of Belfast, to Miss Dunlop, of Carrickfergus. Mr. Robt. Wason to Miss Eliza Gillespie, both of the Falls. Mr. John Lytle to Mrs. Sloan, both of Portlone. Mr. J. Millar, of Carrickfergus, to Miss Jane Beggs, of Doneymoy. In the island of Rathlin, a few days ago, Capt. Alexander Wier, to Miss M. Black, both of said island. On this happy occasion, every

soul in the Isle was assembled at the ceremony, and afterwards partook heartily of the accustomed beverage.

Died...At Large, Mr. George Leno. At Randalstown, Miss Martha Adams. In Belfast, Mr. Robt. Gibon. Miss Patton, daughter of the late Rev. Isaac Patton, pastor of the Seceding Congregation at Lyle, near Templepatrick. Mrs. Pirry, of High-street, Belfast. In Ann-street, Belfast, Mrs. Millar. At Grace-Hill, Mr. Samuel M'Mullen. In Belfast, aged 15, Mr. James Ross. Mr. Edward Hogg, one of the people called Quakers, aged 83.

ARMAGH...Married... Edward Mockler, esq. to Miss Elizabeth Bolton. Mr. C. Lutton, of Moira, to Miss Eleanor Carlton. Mr. Thomas Emerson, of Lurgan, to Miss Ann Holliday, of Stoney Hill. Mr. F. Bennet, to Miss Catharine M'Kee, both of the vicinity of Armagh.

Died... Mrs. Mary M'Kinstry, widow of the late John M'Kinstry, esq. Mrs. Perry, relict of the late George Perry, of Perrymount, esq. At the village of Four-mile-hurn, parish of Donegore, about which she resided since a child, Nancy Alexander, alias Allen, aged 112 years. This old woman reaped for 63 successive years of her life, in the boon of a respectable farmer in the neighbourhood (that of Mr. John Ferguson and his successor, the late Mr. Thomas Ferguson.) It is a singular circumstance, that notwithstanding her great age, she enjoyed the use of all her faculties, till her last moments, and of all her senses except that of sight, which had been gradually decaying for some years past. She was never known to have a head-ache.

Down...Married... Mr. J. Taylor, of Grayabney, to Miss Jane M'Clure of Ganaway. Mr. S. Wallace of Booten, to Miss Porter, of Ballyrussel. Wm. Burke, esq. of Ballydugan, to Miss Blake. Mr. John Savage of Banhrigge, to Miss Mary Anne Trumbull, of Dublin.

Died, Mrs. M'Caubrey, of Comberbridge, near Ballynahinch. At Ballywalter, Mr. John Napier. At an advanced age, Mr. John O'Neill, of Banvale, county Down. He was lineally descended from the ancient Kings of Ulster. In the early part of life, he spent several years on the Continent, and on his return to his native country, devoted his attention to agriculture and the linen trade; he possessed a well cultured understanding, and was distinguished by a remarkable dignity, blended with the most amiable courtesy of manners, through life, his conduct was guided by the principles of integrity and honour, and had conciliated universal esteem and respect. By his death, the poor have lost a father, and his connections an invaluable friend.

BRITISH.

DIED on the 11th instant, at Greenbank, near Liverpool, William Rathbone, in the 51st year of his age. As a merchant of considerable eminence, he possessed the strictest integrity and most delicate honour, and in the midst of a very extended business, he, by a judicious economy of time, gave much attention to literary pursuits, and stored his capacious mind with much valuable knowledge. At the same time he did not neglect the duties of a man and a patriot; but soaring above the narrow views of selfish interests, exerted himself by his advice, and the exercise of his extensive abilities, to promote the welfare of his country, his neighbours and his friends. He proved, by his example, the possibility of blending in a happy medium, in one character, the merchant, the man of refined knowledge, and the true philanthropist. His was not that cold selfishness which wraps the mind in an entire attention to private emolument, and produces indifference to the concerns of others.

He had a warm heart, joined with a correct judgment, and a well disciplined mind; indeed it was the great business of his life to form a just estimate of things, giving to each its due place, and to preserve the equilibrium of a well poised mind. Such was his delicacy that he often found it a difficult task to determine on the line proper to pursue, and was not easily satisfied with himself: but having once decided, he followed his matured conclusions with undeviating firmness.

In private life, he was possessed of most amiable manners; sincere, affectionate, and ardent in his friendships, his friends will long have to deplore the loss of the faithful monitor, and the instructive, cordially attached companion and correspondent. He was a man of domestic habits, and was happy in the endearments of a most amiable family; being a most tender and affectionate husband, and a truly good father; he bore a lingering illness with the utmost composure and resignation, and looked forward undimmed to the termination of his prospects in this life with steady confidence in the mercy and goodness of God.

In the whole tenor of his life, he has left an example worthy of imitation, and affords a strong inducement to follow the same paths, that in our lives we may be as truly useful, and in our deaths as much supported by peace and hope.

BELFAST MAG. NO. VII.

When in great bodily pain, but consoled by the affectionate attentions of his family, he would often say, "mine is not all suffering."

Such characters reconcile us to human nature, and show to what a height of virtue man may attain, by correcting his passions and cherishing the finer feelings and sensibilities of his nature.

As a proof of the warmth of his philanthropy and the ardour of his mind, a circumstance may be mentioned, which, as connected with this country, may hence receive a local interest, and also furnish a distinguishing trait in his general character.

During his last illness, and in a state of great bodily weakness, on hearing an account of the hardships likely to await this country from the want of flaxseed, he became so interested on the subject, that nothing but extreme weakness prevented his immediately writing a number of letters on the business, to move to a consideration of the impending danger. Thus his active mind was influenced by a wish to be useful, notwithstanding the failure of his bodily powers; and his ruling passion to do good, "was strong even in death."

He interested himself much in the civil and religious state of Ireland, and was a warm friend to her best interests.

His religion was of that practical kind, which consists in doing good, and his conduct was a beautiful exemplification of the maxim of the moralist, that "no life can be acceptable to God, which is not useful to man."

The following stanza from Beattie's *Minstrel*, being the advice for his conduct through life, given to Edwin by his father, is known to have been much his favourite, and was fully illustrated by his own example:

"And from the prayer of want, and
plaint of woe,

Oh! never, never turn away thine ear,
Forlorn in this bleak wilderness below,

Ah! what were man, should Heaven
refuse to hear!

To others do (the law is not severe)

What to thyself thou wishest to be done,
Forgive thy foes, and love thy parents
dear,

And friends, and native land; nor
those alone;

All human weal and wo learn thou to
make thine own."

In a future number we hope to be able to give a more detailed account of the life of this excellent man.

The following remarkable circumstance may be depended on as a fact. A poor Irishwoman, who resided in Shoe-lane, London, was brought to bed on Friday se'nnight, and on the same evening dreamt that she should die on the Monday night following. This portentous dream was little attended to by her husband or her neighbours; but on Monday, during the hurricane, the husband thought he heard the roof of the house giving way, and mentioned his fears to his wife. She, however, was unable to help herself, and

dreadful to relate, the roof shortly afterwards falling in, buried in the ruins the unfortunate woman and her child! The husband with the utmost difficulty preserved his life, and though buried in the rubbish, miraculously extricated himself from his perilous situation.

Norwich...On the night of the 17th ult. a lamb the property of Mr. J. Reynolds, of Beeston, St. Andrew, was completely buried under the snow, and was not seen again till the 12th instant (an interval of 26 days) when it was alive and well!

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th of January, to the 20th of February, 1809.

The weather having for some weeks past been extremely wet and stormy, has greatly retarded the progress of the plough, and will probably occasion a press of business to the farmer, in getting the land prepared for the spring crops.

The early sown wheat continues to look well, and the later crops begin to put on a more favourable appearance.

The prices of grain continue to advance, oats in particular has experienced a very great rise, and oat-meal is proportionably high. This extraordinary rise appears to be occasioned by a general apprehension of the effects likely to result from the liberty proposed to be granted to the public stills, and not from any conviction of a scarcity of grain: last year's crop although not as productive as might be expected from its appearance, yet will fall very little if any thing short of the average of the last five years, and the general representation of the potatoe crops being favourable, encourages a hope that provisions will not advance to that enormous price, which the present alarm seems to have suggested.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

It may be proper to notice, as a subject closely connected with the Commercial interests of this country, the proposition made in the Imperial Parliament to permit the distillation from grain in Ireland, and to lay an additional duty on the importation of spirits from this country into Great Britain. In a former Commercial Report, this subject was noticed as connected with the proceedings in the last session of parliament, and a remark made that the business was taken up, rather as a question at issue between the landholders and the West Indian merchants, without reference to the most material point, whether in the state of seclusion in which the empire stands with regard to America and the North of Europe, grain will not be wanted in the shape of food. Every reason which applied in the course of last summer is equally cogent now, when the price of oats, the second article of prime necessity in Ireland, is at present so very high, and if the distillation be permitted to go on, is likely greatly to increase. But taxes are wanted, the revenue is found to be deficient, and the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer is only solicitous to procure money for his friends to carry on the war-system. The inhabitants of Belfast have had two meetings on the subject, and have petitioned parliament against the measure of distillation. A full account of the meeting, as extracted from the Belfast news papers is given at page 149, to which we refer, and crave the attention of our readers. It affords satisfaction to see some revival of public spirit in the town of Belfast, and much credit is due to some of the speakers on the occasion.

It is sincerely wished, that the opposition to the measure may be successful, though there is little room to expect that the good of the people will weigh against the expected increase to the revenue. Private advantage generally outweighs the public good, and some are inclined to wish that the merchants of Belfast had kept above all suspicion of sinister views, by acting with public spirit in petitioning against the Orders in Council, which principally caused the alarms of scarcity, and seem likely to deprive the inhabitants of Ireland of the usual

supply of flaxseed, as well as against a business, in which the interests of the West Indian merchants were peculiarly concerned.

The principal land-holders in the town and vicinity of Portadown, have likewise addressed the Representatives of the Co. of Armagh, in strong terms against taking off the restrictions on the distilleries; and the inhabitants of Newry and Banbridge have also petitioned parliament against the measure.

Dr. A. Fothergill in illustrating the influence of light on the human body, shows, that the tax on windows is injurious to the health of the poorer classes. Here we have one instance of the hurtful effects of taxation operating on health. We have many instances of taxes operating unfavourably on morals. Great facilities are given to license public houses so as to increase the revenue. While wars are continued, they must be supported by heavy taxation; and taxes are unfavourable in more instances than the two enumerated here, to health and morals. Thus by the blunders of statesmen we are deprived of the blessings we might enjoy. To increase the revenue, grain is wasted in distillation, and by a wrong policy we are cut off from the supplies of flaxseed and timber. High prices of the necessities of life, and a want of their usual employment appear to await the poorer classes of our population, at no great distance of time.

Much distress must necessarily result to the different classes of workmen employed in the several branches of building, from the present exorbitant prices of timber; and this state of things, and the prospect of the want of employment in the linen trade, cause the high prices of provisions to be more severely felt. The supplies of timber which have hitherto arrived from Canada have been totally inadequate to make up the deficiency of the usual supply from Norway, and the ports of the Baltic. If the present system of commercial warfare be persisted in, it may be prudent to look out for other resources, and it is said that the coast of Labrador affords an ample supply, if a colony were settled there to cut it.

The question of having any thing approaching to an adequate supply of flaxseed for next spring's sowing is already decided in the negative by all reflecting people. In the mean time it is said that in Connaught the stock of flax and yarn is extremely small. Much distress is there felt and more anticipated. The unhappy emigrants driven from the county of Armagh some years ago, by religious bigotry, had contributed greatly to extend the linen trade in that province. These, with others, may probably experience a second time, the evils arising out of a state of war, whose destructive energies are now so fatally directed against commerce.

Notice has been given in both Houses of Parliament of motions relative to the Orders in Council, and these when they come on will be likely to produce some interesting information on the subject of the embargo. There is reason to hope that notwithstanding the attempts made to stop the language of complaint and just remonstrance reaching the legislature, the grievance of the want of flaxseed will be fairly and unequivocally stated in the course of these debates. The Earl of Moira has already noticed, in the house of Lords, the dangers to which this country is exposed from this cause, almost in the very words of the statement which was furnished to him and other Members of both Houses. America has yet left an open for accommodation in her embargo and non-intercourse acts, if wise counsels are suffered to prevail on this side. These countries might then be relieved from many hardships, though no room is left for hope of any accommodation in time for flaxseed to arrive for this year's sowing.

The Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer has after a long silence returned an answer to the address sent to him from the majority of the meeting at Armagh, in which he endeavours to console the people for the present want of flaxseed by the hope, that hereafter Ireland may be independent of other countries for this article, by raising a sufficient quantity at home for future supply. *A slender consolation for the present!* His answer is calculated to remove from a view of the present to a remote future, and though abounding in attempts to excite delusive hopes, it gives no satisfactory or reasonable expectation of flaxseed being procured to supply our present wants. This measure would only have been accomplished by changing the ministerial system towards America. This letter shows, in a strong point of view, the inefficacy of the plan adopted. If a direct address to the proper organs of the constitution had failed to produce any effect, there would at least have remained the consolation, that the Linendrapers of the north of Ireland had *done their duty* by making a public remonstrance.

In our present prospects as to flaxseed, hemp seems to offer some relief, as a

strong linen can be manufactured from it; consequently the culture of that article for the ensuing year becomes a subject of the highest importance, if by any means it can be temporarily substituted for our linen-manufacture, and thus, or by an increase of calicoes made especially, so as to furnish another substitute for linen, our weavers can have employment continued to them. Last year the Linen-board made some exertions to promote the growth of hemp, and published a pamphlet on the subject, with extracts from some of the agricultural surveys in England; but they were too late and the ground was pre-occupied by other crops. At page 108 will be found a further account of this subject. We hope if the linen board design to give any encouragement this year, in this business, they will do it speedily. Last year, they took up the subject of sowing hemp with the view only to procure a substitute for the defect of a foreign supply of that article. This year a more extensive scheme should be adopted to encourage the sowing of it on a large scale, that it may be substituted in the place of flax in the linen manufacture. One strong fact presents itself, that in Suffolk a good stout linen is manufactured from it: and this knowledge may be very important in the present crisis, when we are deprived of flax-seed.

At the late linen market in Dublin, many of the coarser linens were prevented from being got up to the market in time, from the floods delaying the finishing of them at the greens. Those which did arrive sold readily and at high prices. The sale of fine linens was dull. Few of those bought on speculation, some months ago, are yet sold. The prices of brown linens fell a little in our markets, but the coarser kinds have again risen to nearly the former very high prices, and may be expected to rise still higher.

Exchange on bills on London, in Belfast, for guineas, has been from 5 to 4½ per cent, and discount on bank notes at 3 to 2 per cent, during this month. The Exchange in Dublin on London, for bank notes, has rated from 7½ to 6½ per cent.

Since the foregoing Report was written, the account of the debate in the House of Lords, on the Orders in Council on the 17th Instant has been received; Lord Grenville, in the course of his speech, pointed out the impolicy of quarrelling with America, and defended the government of that country against the charge of partiality towards France. The nature of this Report precludes from entering further into this debate than to notice it so far as it relates to flax-seed; though if the plan of our present arrangement permitted, some pages of this Magazine might be usefully taken up with the report of his able speech, as it might tend to remove many hurtful prejudices which appear to be cherished against that country, with which it is certainly our truest policy to keep on good terms.

On the subject of flax-seed he remarked....“The great importance of the linen manufacture of Ireland is well known, and the difficulty in procuring flax-seed is at present a serious evil;—of forty-five thousand hogsheads required for sowing, thirty-five thousand must be procured from America. In consequence of the interruption of the trade with America the price of flax-seed which was from 2*l.* to 3*l.* per quarter, has risen to from 22 to 24*l.* per quarter. *It is now February, and if the necessary quantity of flax-seed is not procured before May, the consequences will indeed be serious, and the northern district of Ireland, once the most populous, industrious and prosperous, may be reduced to a state of unexampled distress.*”

Earl Bathurst in his reply, is stated to have spoken as follows:....“He could assure his Noble Friend, that in as far as Ireland was likely to be affected, Government had long ago turned its attention to them. The high price of flax-seed was found, on inquiry, to arise, in a great degree, from monopoly, and for the purpose of disappointing the speculations of interested individuals, they had applied what, in such cases, was found to be the most effectual remedy, by encouraging competition. They had ordered purchases to be made in different parts of the Continent; and though he could not at present say what quantity had been bought up, he had no doubt that supplies to a considerable extent would soon arrive. And an order had also been sent out to Lower Canada, though from the freezing of the river St. Lawrence, the cargoes were not likely to arrive till the month of May or June. He took this opportunity of correcting a very erroneous notion which some persons entertained, that the soil of Ireland was not properly calculated for raising flax-seed, and he was happy to state that large tracts of ground in that country were now preparing for this species of cultivation, and that there was every prospect of a sufficient quantity of flax-seed being soon grown in that country, not only for its own supply, but also for the supply of Great Britain; so that, though the inconvenience might be felt for a time, it was very far from being one which, as his Noble Friend had stated, was likely to be a growing evil.”

The motion to address the king to renew the intercourse with the United States of America, was negatived, though a larger minority than usual supported the address. But here, as in other assemblies, reason and sound policy were forced to yield to numbers.

In our next Report it is intended to give a similar account of the debate on the same subject, expected to come on in the House of Commons. But before the subject is dismissed for the present, it may be permitted to remark that a supply of flax-seed, if such *does exist at present* in that country, cannot be expected to arrive from Canada before June, as the breaking up of the ice in the river St. Lawrence is not likely to allow vessels to sail long before the beginning of May. Unluckily it is too late to sow in June, and much injury may be done if by holding out such fallacious expectations, the grounds are kept uncropped till that time. As to the question of raising flax-seed in Ireland, even if the plan is practicable, it can afford no relief for the present year, for owing to the wetness of last summer *very little* was then saved; and the flax-crops, in many instances, were injured by the unsuccessful attempt to save the seed. It is hoped, however, the practice may succeed generally in other years; but in the mean time, the alarming consideration forces itself on observation, that in the course of this year a very considerable diminution, if not an almost total cessation of our staple manufacture must take place. At the present season there is not a *monopoly* of flax-seed, for that article is not in these countries, nor is there a reasonable expectation of more than one third of a necessary supply coming in. Let not the people be deceived by vain hopes, nor delay purchasing what they can procure timely. In cases of distress it is best to see the worst of our situation, and meet the difficulty with prudent precaution and foresight.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from January 20, till February 20,

Barometer.....highest	30 40	Thermometer.....highest	47 0
lowest	28 30	lowest	34 30
mean	29 10	mean	40 10
Synochus, - - - - -	1	Of a mixed nature between typhus and inflammatory fe.	
Typhus, - - - - -	8	Common contagious fever.	[ret.
Erysipelas, - - - - -	2	Rose.	
Ophthalmia - - - - -	3	Inflammation of the eyes.	
Abortus, - - - - -	1	Abortion.	
Colica Spasmodica, - - -	1	Cholic.	
Phthisis Pulmonalis, - -	1	Consumption.	
Asthma, - - - - -	3	Asthma.	
Dyspepsia, - - - - -	4	Indigestion.	
Asthenia, - - - - -	3	Nervous Debility.	
Catarrhus, - - - - -	3	Common cold.	
Hysteria, - - - - -	1	Hysterics.	
Dysenteria, - - - - -	1	Flux.	
Arthrodynia, - - - - -	2	Chronic rheumatism.	
Scrophula, - - - - -	3	Evil.	
Herpes, - - - - -	1	Ringworm, or tetter.	
Epilepsia Cerebralis, - -	1	Convulsions or falling sickness.	
Gonorrhœa, } - - - - -	7	Venereal disease.	
Syphilis, - }			
Morbi infantiles, - - -	20	Febrile and bowel complaints of Children.	

Contagious Fever, that terrible scourge both to poverty and wealth, has increased rapidly since our last, and is advancing with gigantic strides, as may be seen by inspecting the annexed report, whilst small-pox, scarlet fever and measles, have nearly disappeared. The spreading of the disease, although always attended with great misery and distress, particularly among the poor, is not so much to be dreaded as a peculiarly bad character or type which it has assumed, and which can only be prevented from making many the victims of its destructive agency, in this large and thickly inhabited town, by a speedy removal to an hospital, or by a separation of the sick from the healthy, and by a steady perseverance in ventilation and cleanliness. *Ablutions*, with cold water and vinegar, have been, in many instances, attended with the most marked good effects in the Reporter's practice, where the temperature of the body was increased to 100 degrees of Fahrenheit, or upwards; but

he believes the *cold affusion*, which proves so powerful an engine in the hands of Dr. Currie and others in breaking catenated febrile action by its shock, has not got as fair a trial as it deserves. The cutaneous disease (*goose-skin*) mentioned in our last, has almost entirely disappeared, by the use of local applications of a stimulating nature. This Report shall terminate with an extract from the last number of the London Medical Review, which cannot but be gratifying to such of your readers as are engaged in the practice of operative surgery, by affording them a reasonable hope of success, in attempts to save the lives of their fellow-creatures, by the performance of operations of so formidable a nature, as to be seldom attempted till the present day, even by most bold and daring practitioners.

"The operation for carotid aneurism, performed by Mr. Astley Cooper in Guy's Hospital, in June last, has been attended, we are happy to say, with perfect success. It is highly valuable, inasmuch as it is hitherto the only case by which, as far as we know, the credit and character of the operation are supported; we mean its character in a medical sense. The practicability of the safe application and removal of the ligature was put beyond doubt, by the event of his first operation for the disease, two years ago. Humphries, the subject of the former, resides in Labour-in-vain court, Old Fish-street. He is perfectly well, and has returned to his employ, which is that of a porter. The facial and temporal arteries of the corresponding side have no susceptible pulsation. On the opposite side, the temporal artery is larger than usual. The tumour has totally disappeared. His intellect is perfect—his nervous system unaffected: and the very severe pain which he endured upon the same side of the head, previous to the operation, he has never experienced since. A hoarseness, which he had prior to the operation, continues, though it is not now so much as it has been.

The subject of an operation (performed about the same time by the same gentleman) for *inguinal aneurism*, has likewise perfectly recovered; he walks with considerable ease, with the aid of a stick, and has accomplished a walk of three quarters of a mile at one time. He makes no complaint of coldness in the limb. The event of this case is the more gratifying, as the man did not see Mr. Cooper until the tumour, which was very large, was actually livid, and the operation could not have been postponed without considerable risk. In proof of this, we may add, that on the sixth day following, the sac burst and discharged its contents.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From January 20, to February 20.

Fair rising from her icy couch,
Wan herald of the floral year,
The snow-drop marks the spring's approach,
Ere the first primrose groups appear,
Or peers the arum through its spotted veil,
Or violets scent the cold capricious gale.

After a winter marked by unusual severity, the appearance of the spring conveys more than ordinary pleasure, all nature seems to rejoice, and the benign influence of the vivifying sun produces a degree of excitement, which makes the fountains of life flow with rapid currents. The merry birds delight the ear, and the sight is continually gratified in beholding the swelling buds, and expanding flowers.

On the 26th, the Wood lark and the Wren again resumed their song, joined by the Common Bunting (*Emberiza miliaria*.)

29, The Robin (*Motacilla Rubecola*) and Hedge Sparrow (*M. Modularis*) singing, and on the 4th of February, the Common Thrush (*Turdus musiens*) on the 12th the Chaffinch (*Fringilla Cœlebs*) and on the 14th the Lark (*Alauda Arvensis*) united in the concert.

On the 1st of February, the Redwings (*Turdus Iliacus*) which had disappeared at the first commencement of the severe weather, began to re-appear.

Geese become noisy, a sign they will soon begin to prepare their nests.

January 29, Catkins on the Filberts, shedding their farina, and the fertile flowers showing their tufts of crimson styles.

February 10, Snow-drops (*Galanthus Nivalis*) and Winter Aconite, or Christmas Rose (*Helleborus Niger*) flowering.

16, Single Blue Hepatica (*Anemone Hepatica*) and Flesh coloured Spring flowering heath (*Erica saxatilis*, Sal.) flowering.

18, Double Red Hepatica, flowering, and several flowers blown on the common Whin, or Furze (*Ulex Europæus*).

This day sowed Charlton Hotspur Peas—In the introduction to the Naturalist's Report, we endeavoured to point out the advantages likely to arise from a gardener's Journal of this kind, and we again request an attention to this subject.
20, Single Red Hepatica, and two leaved Squill (*Scilla bifolia*) flowering.
Last year the Chaffinch sung first, on the 8th of February, and the Hedge Sparrow on the 13th, but the Hepatica was not in flower, until the 27th.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From January 20, to February 20.

A more severe winter than the one which we have now experienced is not often felt in Ireland, tremendous gales of wind, with either deluges of rain or deep snows, have given a character to this winter particularly striking.

The wreaths of snow which were formed on the night of the 5th of January on the roads, had still a portion remaining on the 15th of the present month.

January 21, 22,	Pleasant clear days.
23,	Same, but towards evening, some snow falling.
24,	Small hail, or snow falling.
25,	About six inches of snow fell during the night, commenced thawing during the day.
26,	Thaw with misty rain.
27, 28,	Fine dry days.
29, 30,	Heavy rain.
31,	Fine day, rain at night.
February 1st,	Showery morning, fine day.
2,	Showery.
3,	Very wet day.
4,	Brilliant morning, showery evening.
5, 6,	Showery.
7,	Dark, dry day.
8,	Cold windy day with snow showers.
9,	Thaw with rain.
10,	Dark dry day.
11,	Wet.
12,	Fine morning, wet stormy night.
13,	Showery.
14,	Pleasant bright day.
15,	Heavy showers.
16,	Windy night, fair day, but wet in the evening.
17,	Cool dry day.
18,	Stormy night and day with showers.
19,	Wet morning, then fine day.
20,	Windy showery day.

The Barometer during the present period was once so low as 28°, 4' and only three times at 30 it may be said to have been almost stationary at 29.

The Thermometer although the common station was about the freezing point, has had a considerable variation; on the morning of the 22d of January, it was 25, on the 23d, it was 24, and on the 18th of February it was as high as 51, a very remarkable degree of heat for the season.

The wind has been Northerly 8 times; Easterly 4; Westerly 1; Southerly 16; of the intermediate points, the S. W. was by far the most prevalent.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR MARCH, 1809.

On the first, the Moon passes our meridian at 12 o'clock, being under the middle of the Lion; the first being above her to the west, and the second above her to the east of the meridian, but at a much greater distance. At this time Mars and the first of the Virgin are in the south-east; and soon after her rising, two planets in the west, the Moon in the east, and Orion near the meridian form a very magnificent scene. At 9 o'clock she is 47° 49' from the second of Taurus.

Fifth, she rises at 57 min. past 10, under the first of the Virgin, and Mars,

having passed the planet in the morning; and on this day she passes the ecliptic, going from the southern to the northern side, but without producing an eclipse. During the night, the first of the Virgin, Mars, the Moon, followed by the two first of the Balance, and the two first of the Scorpion, will present to the traveller a pleasing scene.

Tenth, She rises at half past 3 in the morning, and is soon followed by the small stars in the head of the Archer; she sets about half past 11.

Fifteenth, she rises at 56 min. past 3 in the morning, and sets at 36 min. past 5 in the evening, and of course we cannot see her this day.

Twentieth, she rises about 7 o'clock, morning, and sets 13 min. past 11 evening. She is seen under the Pleiades, and nearly in a line with these stars and Menkar, but much nearer to them than to him. Venus and the first three stars of the Ram, are now at a considerable distance from her. At 9 she is $58^{\circ} 29'$ from the second of the Twins.

Twenty-fifth, she rises at 54 min. past 11, passes the meridian at 35 min. past 7, and sets the next morning at 40 min. past 2. At the time of her culmination, we may see above her the first two stars of the Twins, and below her the first two of the Little Dog, being almost in a right line with the second of the Twins, and the first of the Little Dog. The western hemisphere has now a very splendid appearance; the line from the Moon to Venus, pointing out objects which must now be familiar from former observations: while under this line, Orion and Sirius render the region to the south and south-west conspicuous. At nine she is $33^{\circ} 6'$ from the first of the Lion.

Thirtieth, she rises 3 min. past 6, and passes the meridian at 46 min. past 11, P.M. having above her to the east, the seventh, and to the west, the second of the Virgin, being two of the five stars in the triangle. The whole of the Lion is now to the west of the meridian, the second being considerably above her: under her are the stars in the Crow; and the first of the Virgin and Mars, the first two stars of the Balance, and Saturn just risen with the second of the Scorpion, adorn the line from her to the point south-east by east. At 9 she is $32^{\circ} 26'$ from the first of the Lion. She sets the next morning at half past five.

Mercury, is at his inferior conjunction on the 5th, and of course, so near the Sun during the early part of the month, that he will be invisible. The Moon passes him on the night of the 14th.

Venus, is an Evening star, being at her greatest elongation on the 13th, her motion is direct through about 30° . On the 12th she is in a line between the first of the Ram, and the first of the Whale, but much nearer the former star than the latter. The Moon passes her on the 20th.

Mars rises on the first a little before ten at night, and on the 25th, at three quarters past seven; of course, this month is favourable for observations on him. The Moon passes him on the 5th.

Jupiter is in conjunction with the sun on the 22d, and of course will be an evening Star near the horizon during the early part of the month. The Moon passes him on the 16th.

Saturn is on the meridian at 43 min. past 5, in the morning of the first, and at 13 min. past 4 in the morning of the 26th. The groupe formed by this planet and Antares, and the second with the smaller stars of the Scorpion will form a pleasing object during the whole month. The Moon passes him on the 7th.

Herschell has a small retrograde motion during this month of about 50° almost in the line between the first of the Balance, and the eleventh of the Virgin; being at first about $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ from the former star. The Moon passes him on the 6th, being very near him.

Jupiter being very near the Sun the greatest part of this month, the Eclipses of his satellites will not be visible.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SIMPLEX, and S. R. are received. We have had for some time a paper signed RUSTICUS, lying by us; as we do not think it suitable to the plan of the Magazine to admit papers of this description, yet are extremely unwilling to withhold from the public any comments upon its merits, we shall either leave it for return to the writer to dispose of it as he pleases, or if he wishes will transmit it to either of the news papers, which we conceive to be the proper vehicle for such animadversions.

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 8.]

MARCH 31, 1809.

[Vol. 2.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON NATIONAL PREJUDICES.

"Lands intersected by a narrow frith
Abhor each other. Mountains interposed,
Make enemies of nations, who had else
Like kindred drops, been mingled into
one.

Thus man devotes his brother."——

COWPER'S TASK.

THE term, "natural enemies," has been applied to nations bordering on each other, because they are under different governments. That it is an *unnatural* appellation, must appear to every one who examines the subject divested of all prejudices, and of an undue bias in favour of self and against others. We may fondly suppose every thing in favour of ourselves, and against our neighbours, and they may retaliate on us with similar partiality; but to the eye of sober reason it appears evident that the sum of human happiness would be much more increased by mutual acts of kindness, each supplying what the other wants, than by the demonizing plan of mutual hostilities.

But not to press this subject farther at present, I am disposed to take up the less display of human prejudices, and to point out the inconveniences of national distinctions between countries legally united under one government, but which have many repelling points that require correction. The English, Scotch and Irish, if they were only truly enlightened to see it, have all one common interest, and yet let the subject be introduced in conversation, national distinctions immediately appear, and with the unthinking many, the aim is to exalt the national character of the country to which the speaker belongs, to the depreciation of that of others. Doubtless many honourable exceptions exist, for the good of all countries are of

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one family, and cherish a spirit of liberality towards their neighbours; but with the great and little vulgar a propensity to invidious distinctions is painfully conspicuous.

In the literary world a certain cant of expression has prevailed in attributing blunders almost exclusively to Irish writers: hence the phrases, Irishisms, Hibernian blunders, bulls, and similar expressions gratuitously assumed: Scoticism is also a favourite expression with some English writers. In this censure reviewers must also be frequently classed as offenders, those arbiters of public taste, who ought to hold the critical balance with the strictest impartiality, and yet these writers who thus so bountifully deal out their epithets on others, very seldom in the true spirit of impartiality, give us instances of Anglicisms; though provincial, and even metropolitan expressions could easily be selected from English writers equally departing from proper and duly authorized usage. Let a blunder be called a blunder; but, why, in the name of common sense, should Irish be prefixed to it, even when the objectionable phrase may not have been used by an Irishman?

In matters of trade what narrow nationalities prevail! The history of commerce affords curious instances of the oppression exercised by the strong over the weak in such cases. Let us cherish the hope that there is a slow approximation to more enlarged views on this subject; though many prejudices yet remain. I have always been a friend to the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland, though I highly disapprove of the dishonest means by which it was brought about. Among other reasons I am a friend to this measure, because I expect from it in time, an abatement of national prejudices, and an amalgamation of the interests and views

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of the two countries. I am also a friend to the union, because some anomalies in legislation and government are done away by it, and because the minds of Irishmen, through party prejudices, had become so highly exasperated against each other, that it was useful to interpose a great body between them. I could name some proceedings countenanced by the Irish Parliament, which a spirit of party politics introduced, but which the Imperial Parliament, with feelings not so sublimated by local hostilities, would not have taken up. Dublin may suffer a little, but in time I hope, if war should cease its ravages, the increase of commerce would far outweigh the temporary loss arising to the retailers of articles of luxury, owing to the additional number, who have become absentees since the union. At most this can be but a temporary loss, and affects but little, if at all, the state of general commerce. Whether the absentee, with his family, uses Irish linen, or eats Irish butter in England, or in Ireland, is immaterial to the interests of trade; he pays the increased price of bringing these articles into England, and the loss in point of morals cannot be great to this country, from the non-residence of some, whom Ireland counts among her absentees. In the populous province of Ulster, and I believe also in the southern and western parts, no injurious consequences have been felt from the union. Dublin, as the overgrown head to a body, as yet slender, may have suffered; but trade, like water, finds its own level in time, and after a few inconveniences experienced by individuals settles so as to accommodate itself to the general interest. Scotland, after the experience of a century, is found to have profited by her incorporation with England, and the prejudices which were formerly so powerful between the two countries, have nearly sunk into oblivion. Her two attempts in favour of the house of Stuart appear to have had no connection with any affects arising out of the union, nor can some English prejudices against Scotchmen at the commencement of the present reign be traced to this source. The favouritism of an obnoxious minister was in the latter case the efficient cause.

But to render our late union with England more efficacious than a mere incorporation of the two legislatures, much remains to be done. A wise conciliating system of legislation, combining justice and sound policy together, may do much. A generous oblivion of the past on all sides, and a liberal enlightened abatement of ancient prejudices will effect much more. To complete this happy termination of former grievances, each individual should contribute his share, by banishing from his mind all national animosities and antipathies, and instead of being the partisan of one country become the denizen of the whole.

Instead of dwelling only on the defects of national character, let us rather wisely extract the valuable from each, and combine it so as to promote the general good. England is wealthy, and has consequently, as a nation, the haughtiness attendant on wealth, and the long possession of power, but she has habits of industry and frugality, and that kind of decorum and civilization, which commerce gives. Though it may not be of the very first rate, it is still of value at least as an exterior accomplishment. The English nation besides possesses a literary class, whose attainments in science, and in the useful and ornamental arts, form an honourable distinction in national character. From the possession of immense wealth, capable and often willing to reward genius, London is the mart also of literature. Scotland, from being a poor nation, is rising gradually into wealth, and may sometimes carry the arts of rising beyond the proper boundaries. The natural and allowable wish to help each other may degenerate into nationality, and shrewdness or cunning may in some instances usurp the place of wisdom. In this rapid sketch of national manners, I wish to guard against being illiberal, and in assigning traits of character, to aim in pointing out defects, rather to promote reformation than to indulge in censure. All nations have their distinguishing qualities, but, as I said before, the good of all are of one family. In portraying Irish manners we must distinguish between the commer-

cial character, more especially as it is blended in the northern province with a similarity to Scotland, from our contiguity to that country, and an identity of circumstances and interests; and the character which more peculiarly belongs to the Irish nation. A high sense of honour, bordering on the romantic, and oftener employed on the trifling than on the more important transactions of life, joined to an improvident thoughtlessness, may be admitted to form a strong feature in Irish lineament. If this delineation be just, it is a character, which, according to the different modifications it assumes, admits of many excellencies and of many glaring defects.

From a review of the whole, instead of offering the repelling points, much advantage might be gained by each country correcting its own errors, and improving by an imitation of the virtues of her neighbours. Let England forego its selfishness, and that hauteur which has rendered her so unpopular among other nations, causes her to be disliked on the continents of Europe and America, and induces her to assume an undue assumption of authority over her younger sisters. Let Scotland moderate her ardour to rise, and cultivate the noble qualities of generosity and open-heartedness. Her literary character stands high, and her very peasants partake of the rudiments of learning. In an especial manner let Ireland, without abating of her honour, study to become useful rather than showy, and let habits of stricter industry and frugality be learned from her more steady neighbours. Instead of being a land of squires and of dependents, let us wish for an extension of commerce to fill up the space between the higher and lower ranks, and to level the inequalities of the surface not only without injury to the rich, but with evident advantage to them, and to the improvement and amelioration of the lower ranks both in civilization and morals. In fine, let national distinctions and national reflections cease, and let the three nations become *in fact*, as they are nominally, one country, and that friendly emulation only be exerted, which stimulates to run together in the paths of virtue and

peace. Laws must unavoidably fall short of effecting every thing, but to an enlightened and liberal system of legislation, let the energies of a united people be added. Even should an untoward concurrence of circumstances prevent the benefits to be derived from beneficial laws, much public advantage and private emolument would be accomplished by the relinquishment of religious and national prejudices. It is not to be expected that men will ever think alike, but where uniformity ends, let a wise forbearance commence, and when we cannot be of one mind conscientiously, let us agree to differ.

As to civilization, we are a young nation, and have yet much to learn, and on this score need instruction in the refinement of our taste. To mention only the single instance of periodical publications, many of those published in England are greatly superior to the Irish publications. The Irish taste has been vitiated by crude trash, and craves a continuance of similar trifling, against which the conductors of a respectable work should make a resolute stand, and as caterers for the public, refuse to gratify a corrupt taste. In an incipient civilization like young people and children, from a perversity incident to immature judgment, we often prefer the sour crab to the matured fruit; but those instructors deserve well of the public, who resist such perverted fancies, and in opposition to present advantage refuse to sell unwholesome garbage.

In the case just alluded to, and in many others we have much to learn. Instead of wrapping ourselves up in self-sufficiency, and thinking ourselves right from a fond attachment to our own way, because it is our own way, or the way of our country, we ought to stand open to conviction, and receive instruction from our neighbours, in such instances, in which they may be wiser than we are. By such a mode of proceeding we may make the experience of others our own, and though we may have to abate in dogmatism, and an overweening attachment to national prejudices, the stock of real improvement will be increased, and the boundaries of substantial knowledge enlarged.

As I have been attempting to draw a hasty sketch of national manners, I shall add another trait in which I think the English have the advantage over my countrymen, in not indulging so freely in the excesses of the table after dinner. In general they are more sober. A literary or moral subject is seldom introduced into conversation after dinner in Ireland, yet it is common in England; where if they have less conviviality, and what is erroneously called good fellowship, they have more rationality and literary taste, as I have experienced on many occasions during my occasional visits to that country. To this cause I attribute the greater degree of intellectual improvement, manifested among many of the mercantile class in England. Some of them are very deeply engaged in business; and yet they find time for literary pursuits. The time gained from undue indulgences of the table is given to reading and other means of improvement without encroaching on business. This is a more rational entertainment than the noisy contests of politics, and the news of the day, or talk of the technical routine of trade generally occupying that portion of the conversation which is spared in many convivial companies from dogs and horses, where the language and manners of jockeys and grooms are well imitated. Noisy companies are too common in all countries, but I am inclined to think that on settling the account, the balance in favour of sobriety and rationality lies with our neighbours, and that our manners would be improved in an imitation of their more prudent plan. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ON SONG WRITING.

^{618,}
CHANCE, accident, design, or idleness, or what you will, threw a very large collection of old and new Songs in my way, and I read them over, with no immediate view of improvement you may suppose, but rather to divert an idle hour, as harmlessly as possible. It occurred to me however, that if I could extract any remarks from those songs, and arrange them

methodically, my time would not be totally wasted. As I know not yet in what particular method I may arrange them, the present letter can only contain a few general observations on such as happened particularly to occur to my memory; but if I have leisure to pursue this subject, I promise you something like method in my handling the theory and practice of song-writing. In love songs, which I shall consider first, seems to be an established rule with it the writers of them to steer as clear as possible from common sense, indeed there is but little room for this property in the brains of a love sick Poet. He takes leave of the present world and flies to the regions of fancy, where he seeks no other guide, and wishes for no other resting place than Rhime. Confident that the music master will hide all his failings and cover all his defects with quavers and crotchets, he violates every rule of propriety, every law of providence, and distorts every image of nature. He walks upon stilts, and although perhaps no methodist talks more familiarly of *heaven* and *hell*, complains heavily of suffering the torments of the latter, and is ever, but in vain, by his own account, soliciting the blessedness of the former.

The language of love songs is profusely metaphorical; the mistress is generally a monstrous human being, armed with darts, flames and torrenting engines, and the aim of the Poet is, to disarm her of those deadly weapons. The following is a small specimen of the true metaphorical:

“With her I could for ever dwell,
There’s *h*aven within her arms;
But absent from her I’m in *hell*,
Dire grief my soul alarms:
I rave, I burn, I pine, I die,
Nought can my heart relieve,
But at her sight my sorrows fly,
Her presence bids me live.”

The distress of a man is certainly remarkable, who at one and the same time raves, burns, pines, and dies: it is also to be noticed that there is one circumstance in his case still more deplorable. The poor gentleman is in *hell*, a very unpleasant situation; where however I must leave him to take notice of a lover of another

kind, who has thought proper, I will not say, to invert the whole course of nature, but at least to stop its progress, to keep the birds from flying, and even prevent the blowing of the winds:

"Thus she mourn'd, what a scene all around,

The birds flag their wings at her sighs;
The vallies her sorrows resound,
And the stream shows her blubooered eyes;

All nature takes part in her woe,
A black cloud o'er the heavens is spread,
The winds have forgotten to blow,
And the willows bend over her head."

What is an Earthquake to this? that the winds should lose their memory and forget to blow; yet such liberties are frequently taken by Poets, but, in my opinion, they are very *unwarrantable*, for nothing can be so cruel as to annihilate the world for the sake of one inhabitant of it. I would allow the Poets to hold conversation with the woods and valleys, and to call the streams or beasts of the field to witness, but to prevent the poor birds from flying, and the winds from blowing, is not to be justified by any of the laws of Parnassus.

It appears too, that the language of lovers, when they speak of heaven and hell, is not always metaphorical, witness the following:

"Nice virtue preach'd religious laws,
Paths to eternal rest,
To fight his king and country's cause,
Fame counsel'd him was best,
But love opposed their noisy tongues,
And thus their votes out-braved:
Get, get, a mistress, fair and young,
Love fiercely, constantly, and long,
And then thou shalt be sav'd."

Here is a receipt for eternal salvation; for this song is modestly entitled "the way to be saved," and no doubt there are many who tried the experiment; with what success I cannot at present take time to inquire. This author, however, differs very materially in his religious sentiments from the following:

"Long courtship's the vice of a phlegmatic fool,
Like the grace of fanatical sinners,

Where the stomachs are lost and the vic-tuals grow cool,

Before men sit down to their dinners."

The poet's idea seems to be less unreasonable than any I have mentioned, for he considers his mistress in the same light as he considers a joint smoaking on the table. He rejects courtship because it resembles a long grace before dinner; so whips up his knife and fork, and helps himself like an alderman at a city feast. Indeed the song smacks so strongly of the *kitchen*, that I should almost suspect a member of the cook's company had written it. It was a very great favourite some time back, and the ladies must certainly own their obligations to the author for the delicate comparison he has drawn.

In my next letter, Mr. Editor, I shall probably pursue the subject, and if I find it agreeable to your readers, shall go through a course of lectures on most of our common and fashionable songs, with a view to ascertain the portion each has of poetry and common sense. Mean time, I am, Sir, your very obedient servant.

CURSORIVS.

Belfast, February, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN the present situation of this country, from the exorbitant price of Flax, and the probable want of a sufficient quantity of Flax-seed for the ensuing season, every circumstance connected with the linen-manufacture, and the support of those employed in its various branches, is worthy of serious consideration. Should it fail from want of raw material, the spinners must suffer first; but the distress, if not ruin, of others must soon follow. In the counties of Down and Antrim, notwithstanding the extent of their manufacture, the dearth of flax, or of flax-seed, is only a lesser evil, compared with that which must be felt in the other parts of the kingdom. From the lineeness of their yarn, a small quantity of flax employs a great number of spinners, and produces a profit, as the price of labour, equally great.

In several districts of these two counties, and a small portion of Armagh, I am induced to think that the yarn averages at 8 or 10 hanks in the pound. In the barony of Ards, I know that many spin yarn of 14, several of 16 to 20, and a few to 22, and upwards. In the village of Greyabby, I have seen all grists, from 22 hanks downwards, in the grocery shop windows, not only in bunches, but in single hanks, as brought in by the poor, to purchase their necessities, or their little luxuries of tea, sugar, tobacco, &c. In spring last, I procured a hank of the grist of 23 hanks in the pound, from a woman there, who had near 40 hanks of the same, spun by her daughter, then in her 15th year; and I was told that, about the village of Millisle, some spin much finer.

From these facts, I presume, we may consider 6 hanks in the pound a very moderate average for the linen-yarn of these two counties: whilst as I am informed, it does not exceed two, in the other counties. Here, then, is a saving of two thirds in the price of seed, rent of land, and labour previous to spinning, besides the additional value of the yarn, and extension of the benefits of industry, from the additional number of spinners, &c. employed.

I am aware that, were all our yarn spun from 6 hanks upwards, the quantity of fine linen produced would far exceed the demand, whilst the coarser, though more necessary, staple would be diminished, and nearly lost. But I am aware, also, that were our flax judiciously prepared, and our spinning improved as it might, nearly as much yarn, and of better quality, would be produced, for the coarser fabrics, by young spinners, and the spinning machinery, now happily introduced into this country, as there is at present; whilst the nicer eye and more delicate finger, improved by habit and attention, would produce four times the quantity that is now spun of a finer staple. Besides, whatever deficiency might arise, in the very coarse fabrics, might, I presume, be supplied cheaper, from hemp, by the machinery already mentioned.

There is another circumstance, of no mean importance, which should not be overlooked. If I am rightly informed, the city of London has been in the habit of sending out £50,000, yearly, for foreign lace, or yarn and thread to be manufactured into lace. If this be true, would not the production of such yarn at home be a great national saving, not to speak of the numbers who would be employed and supported, by preparing the thread, and manufacturing the lace? And does not this present a strong inducement to Government and the legislature, to encourage the genius, animate the industry, and cheer the hearts of the poor lasses of Erin, by enabling her Linen-board to give adequate premiums for the production of yarn, and manufacture of thread, equal to the finest and best imported.

I know, something of this kind was done, a good many years ago, when Ireland had a parliament; and that it was productive of very happy effects. Previous to that period, yarn of 24 hanks in the pound, had never been heard of in the country, and finer than 12 seldom seen. However I would have the claim to premiums to commence with a grist still finer; suppose 30 hanks in the pound, and the premiums to rise in proportion to superior fineness. From what took place on a former occasion, were the experiment made, I have no doubt of its success. Nay I feel warranted in expressing my full conviction that our ingenious, though poor and despised; Irish Girls are capable of outstripping the world in this delicate and valuable manufacture; and I am happy in adding, that the Right Honourable and Honourable the Dublin Society, and the trustees of the Linen-board have in their possession, demonstration of the fact. I am assured that the finest linen-yarn, ever imported, did not exceed 40 or 44 hanks in the pound; whereas one was sent to the Linen-board, some years ago, by the Earl of Londonderry, and another, at a later date, through the Right Hon. John Foster, of at least 64 hanks in the pound. About two years ago, I deposited, in the museum of the Dublin Society, a hank of equal fineness, and one cut of 120

threads, which the spinner, as she declared to me, believed to be, at least, 14 hanks in the pound finer. This rests on her declaration, because it was the first she had spun, of so fine a thread, and the quantity was so small that she had no weights by which she could ascertain its fineness with accuracy.

For the first of the two hanks, presented to the linen-board, she was complimented with ten guineas; for the other with twenty; the only reward she has ever received. However, animated by the honour, more than the value of this well earned premium, she has proceeded in her improvements, almost beyond credibility. At this moment I have in my possession a hank, which I received from her, on the 20th of last month, weighing three sixteenths of an ounce, i.e. of the fineness of $85\frac{1}{2}$ hanks in the pound; and on the 1st instant, I received 4 cuts, inclosed in a letter, 20 hanks finer.

These facts I would scarcely have dared to mention, I had I not, within my reach, evidence to support them; nor would I have mentioned them, did I not conceive that the knowledge of them may probably be conducive to the public good. It is intended that a specimen of my evidence, shall accompany this sketch. Whether, and how far the expected good may arise from it, must depend on the spirited exertions of our *poor Irish Girls* to imitate the example of Ann M'Quillin; the generosity of Irish women, the patronage of the linen-board, supported by parliament, the patriotism, I had almost written, the nationality of Irishmen; and the *blessing of Providence*.

As the facts which I have mentioned, may attract public attention, and excite public curiosity respecting the person, connexions, character, rank and circumstances of Ann M'Quillin, I shall take the liberty of subjoining, that—

Ann M'Quillin, the Irish spinstress, is a native of Comber, in the Barony of Castlereagh, and County of Down, six miles distant from Belfast. She is near 40 years of age, rather below the middle size, delicate in her constitution, but cheerful and lively in

her manners, though her health and sight are considerably impaired by intense application to the improvement of her art.

She has three sisters, who spin yarn from 24 to 40 hanks in the pound, which she calls coarse yarn.

Her father, Charles M'Quillin, of an ancient and respectable family, in the county of Antrim, is an old and infirm man, of excellent character, and who through life, has been a very useful member of society. He was for many years an eminent writing master, and afterwards, when a failure of sight disqualified him for that profession, he obtained an employment in the revenue, worth £30, per annum, which he held for 28 years. He is now superannuated on full pay. He is nearly blind, and totally dependent on this small annuity, and the astonishing industry of his daughters.

The name of her mother, a discreet pleasing woman, and highly respected in her station, was Wilson. She languished for several years, under a slow decline, which terminated her life, a few years ago. During her long indisposition, the exertions of her daughters, added to their father's small annuity, supplied her, not only with the necessaries, but humble comforts, of declining life.

To such tender melancholy offices, the young M'Quillins were devoted, almost from infancy. Their grandmother Wilson, who died 19 years ago, at the advanced age of 92, had been long an invalid, sinking under the pressure of years and infirmity. During this period, while the industry and cheerful attentions of the young M'Quillins soothed and comforted her latter days; her good sense and instructive lessons animated their industry, and laid the foundation of that character, which they still support. Mrs. Wilson was a truly respectable woman, and eminently useful in her generation. I knew her intimately, from the year 1767, nearly till the time of her death. She was the best bred, best informed, *Diva Lucina*, otherwise midwife of the county, in her day, and consequently the most generally employed in all the neighbouring families of rank and

respectability. Gentlemen were not so frequently called in, as grooms of the bedchamber, then as latterly; and when they were, it was only, like Dr. Slop in the family of Mr. Shandy, to amuse themselves in the parlour, with the intricate disputables of religion or politics, while dame Wilson managed things above stairs, in her own way, and generally brought them to an happy issue.

In the treatment of small pox she was aequally eminent. She was among the first in the country, who adopted, recommended, and practised the *Suttonian* system, in which she was of great service to the public.

I hope I shall not be deemed impertinent in adding, that the wheel on which Ann M^cQuillin spins her superfine yarn, was made, before the marriage of her grandmother Wilson; and that, on her first removal to her husband's house, in the year 1716, it was one of her accompaniments. This the whole family assert, on the grandmother's own authority: and the circumstance appears to me as important, in this sketch, as the immortal Milton's shoe-latchets; Paoli's great dog, or Johnson's large English oak stick, in the sketches of their respective characters.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to mention that Ann cannot spin her superfine yarn, except in mild weather. Frost, high-winds, and excessive drought, are equally unfavourable. She then spins, what she calls coarse yarn: that is, from 24 to 30, or 36 hanks in the pound.

A few years ago, she could spin a hank of 64 in the pound, in four days. Of the finer staple, she can now spin a hank, in the week, when the weather is favourable. But the superfine, i.e. about 100 hanks in the pound, requires nearly twice the time.

Of the manner in which she prepares her flax, I know nothing; but I am certain, the knowledge of it would be highly important to all concerned in the linen business, and to the country at large, as it would enable spinners to produce yarn, not only finer, but in every respect much better, than is usually done. Under this impression I earnestly wish that

the linen drapers, and others conversant in the trade, would take this subject into their serious consideration; and if they deem it of any real importance, that from a regard not only to the circumstances and merits of our unparalleled spinstress, but to the general improvement of our staple manufacture in elegance and value, they would devise, adopt, and execute, some measure, worthy of themselves for rewarding her past exertions, and encouraging her not only to persevere in them, but to publish the means, and process, by which she has brought her flax and yarn to such amazing perfection.

As what I have written may reach the eye of some, who may be incapable of estimating the fineness of Ann's yarn, from their ignorance of its count and measure, I add, that each hank contains 12 cuts, each cut 120 threads, and each thread measures 24 yards.

From this table, it is evident that the thread of her yarn, of 64 hanks, from one pound of flax, is in length

		Miles, f. p. yds.:-	
85 Hanks,	and	{ 102 6 34 2 Irish measure.	
		{ 130 7 7 1 English do.	
		{ 136 4 34 2 Irish.	
		{ 175 6 36 2 English.	
105 do. p. lb. no less than		{ 168 6 0 0 Irish.	
		{ 214 6 7 0 English.	

Should you, Gentlemen, from the view, above exhibited, deem what I present you, worthy of a place in your Magazine, I shall take the liberty of troubling you with something further on the subject, at a future day. In the mean time, permit me to request that you may be so good as to inclose a few threads of Ann's *astonishing* production, to each of your Subscribers, with this sketch, that they may see it with their own eyes, and judge of it by the light of their own understanding. If you do, I hope—nay, I trust—I am assured,—they will be willing to contribute to a subscription for her benefit of which I doubt not you and your agents in the different towns, would accept of the office of being collectors, as a small acknowledgement of the admiration which it will excite, the pleasure it will inspire, and the

flattering prospect of national honour and interest which it opens. In the Irish ladies I repose, if possible, more than confidence. I know that their honourable pride, and their patriotism, will conspire with their innate generosity in promoting the circumstances, the merits, and the future comfort, of their ingenuous and humble, but admirable countrywoman.

To the female nobility and gentry of Ireland, Lady Dufferin has set a noble and praiseworthy example. She has repeatedly purchased yarn, had it manufactured into thread, by Ann herself, and wrought into lace, in the neighbourhood of London. I have in my possession, at this moment, a specimen of the thread manufactured from yarn, of about 70 hanks in the pound, and the lace worked for her Ladyship from it, far superior to any thing of the kind, which ever was seen in this country. Would the other ladies of the land follow her steps in the encouragement of our Irish spinstresses, they would call forth Irish ingenuity, render Irish industry active and comfortable, and, by the splendour of their virtues, add real dignity to their titles.

"Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus."

W. STEEL DICKSON.

Room, Armagh, Feb. 15, 1809.

Through an error of the press, in the foregoing article, Ann M^cQuillin is stated to be near 40 years of age.....she is but about 25.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

THE following Plan, requiring of government the annual grant of a sum not exceeding £120,000, would establish well conducted schools within a mile of every house, provide for the civil and moral instruction not only of all the poor in Ireland, but also of all the middle classes; impress moral and religious principle upon the public mind, without the slightest encroachment upon the particular tenets of any Church, and thereby increase the public confidence, the peace, and the happiness of all.

ARRANGEMENTS.

I.

That government grant £50, and every parish, at least £12 10 0, to erect four school houses at proper dis-

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tances from each other in every parish, for the education of all the children, in English, writing, and Christian duty.

II.

That government continue this grant annually, for the education of 40 poor children in every parish, that shall contribute a small annual sum sufficient for repairs, firing, and premiums; and adhere to the underneath Regulations.

III.

That each parish shall, at a vestry meeting, choose six intelligent Laymen, resident in the parish, who, with the Established, Dissenting, and Catholic Clergymen, shall constitute the PAROCHIAL COMMITTEE.

IV.

That the Parochial committee shall superintend the application of the Government grant, and the parish contribution to the erecting, supporting, and endowing said schools;—shall be empowered to choose the free scholars, and in case of gross misconduct, to expell them; to choose the teachers, and in case of neglect or misconduct, to supersede them;—to hold public examinations, at least once in the year, to adjudge premiums to the most deserving, to publish their names, and record them in the vestry-book;—to superintend the establishment, the funds, repairs and orderly arrangements of the schools, and to make a faithful report hereof to the COUNTY VISITORS.

V.

That a visitor of liberal education, and liberal views, be annually appointed to inspect the schools of each county, at a salary proportioned to the number of schools visited. That the visitors for the 12 counties of Leinster be chosen by the Established Clergymen, at their annual visitation, for the 11 Counties of Munster and Connaught, by the Catholic Clergy, at their visitation; and for the nine Counties of Ulster, by the Dissenting Clergy, at the General Synod; that the Visitors be required to visit all the schools annually, to receive the report of the Parochial committees, to see the state of the school-houses, books, accounts, and to apportion the salary to the varying numbers in each school;—to examine the scholars in English, Writing, Accounts and the Christian duties;—to suggest improvements to the Teachers, and make

a report of the Morals and progress of the schools, and of the management of the several committees to the SUPREME COMMITTEE.

VI.

This committee consisting of a Bishop (appointed by the Primate) the Titular Bishop of Armagh, and the Moderator of the Synod of Ulster, to meet at Athlone, on the first Tuesday in September, and on the report of the Visitors, to determine what schools have, by the neglect of the masters, or of the Parochial committees, forfeited the current year's endowment, and what schools are, from their pre-eminent attention, entitled to receive the forfeited endowment, in addition to their own?—to ascertain the salary of each visitor, allowing £75. for every 100 schools he has visited, and to direct the government agent, attending this committee, what proportion he is to remit to each visitor, and to the Established Clergyman of each parish, for the endowment of the respective schools;—to report the progress of useful learning to the Public, and the exertions of the several visitors to the Clergy, at their respective annual meetings, and through them to suggest to the several Parochial committees such improvements as from time to time may appear most conducive to the public good.

PARTICULAR REGULATIONS.

I.

Any overplus, arising from school houses having been already built, in proper situations, or from extra contributions, to be applied to the building of two apartments, or to some other permanent accommodations for the teacher.

II.

In order to encourage the establishment, and consequent regularity of four schools in each parish in preference to that of one, two or three, government to grant only £43. per annum, to such parochial committees, as prefer the building and endowing of three school-houses; £36. to such as prefer two; and £30. to such as prefer one; in all cases requiring the parish to contribute for the first year, one fourth of the sum granted by government for building, and every following year, a small sum for repairs, firing and premiums.

III.

The parochial committee to divide the parish endowment so, as to grant to each of the four schoolmasters ten guineas per annum, for educating 10 poor children, with those scholars for whom he is paid by the parents, and £12 6, for paper, and for the use of books, provided and lent to them by the master, making up in all, £50. for the four schools.

IV.

That the parochial committee choose only one free scholar out of one family, in the course of 2½ years, the period allowed for the education of each free scholar, unless in case of vacancies;—that they limit the number of free scholars in parishes, preferring only one endowed school, to 24. the overplus of the £30. viz. £2 14. to be applied to paper, books, and firing, for said school;—and that they limit the number in each of the four schools, to 36, including the 10 free scholars.

V.

That the parochial committee see, that all the scholars are clean, and regular in their deportment, in their attendance on school, and on public worship;—that the masters punish every breach of truth, honesty, peace and piety with as much strictness, as indolence and inattention;—that the scholars be all instructed in English, Writing, and Accounts, but above all in Christian duty, by reading and explaining every Saturday, such passages only of the New Testament, as regard Christian conduct;—that their respective Pastors follow up these rudiments of Christian morality, by inculcating their own particular modes of faith, and practical duties from the pulpit, and by catechising and admonishing the children of their respective congregations both in public and in private.

VI.

That in the public examinations, all the first classes of the four schools be examined in one class, all the second in another, in order to ascertain, by the premiums, the comparative merit of each school.

VII.

That the visitors be empowered, in the first year's visit, to call a vestry meeting in each parish, to ascertain the number of school-houses required.

REASONS FOR THE ABOVE REGULATIONS.

Ques. Why require a parish contribution to the building, firing, premiums, and repairs of the school-houses, in addition to the Government grants?

Ans. As a small earnest of their wish to establish, increase and render permanent such public schools, intended for the education of all the children in the parish.

2. Why endow four schools partially, instead of one central school exclusively, for the poor?

A. 1st. To establish well conducted schools within a mile of each house.—2d. To bring education to the door of 10 free scholars in each of the *four* quarters, instead of confining it to 24 in *one* quarter of the parish.—3d. These 24, being the greatest number that could be educated for £30. must either occupy the school twice the time necessary for their education, or leave vacancies, not to be filled by the poor of one quarter of the parish; and in either case, the number educated in each parish would, in 20 years, amount only to 96: where as 50*l.* applied as above, would in the same time, educate 320 poor children in each parish, and extend the benefits of education equally to all the poor in Ireland.

2. Why submit the schools to the direction of a parochial committee?

A. That the choosing of the situation for each school-house, the choosing or superseding of the masters, and of the free scholars, the repairing of the school-houses, the orderly arrangements of the schools, the education and morals of the scholars, may be entrusted not to the jarring caprice of the many, but to the discretion of a few judicious and responsible directors.

2. Why are the visitors chosen annually?

A. To keep them always on the alert.

2. Why are they not chosen by the government, but by the clergy of the three churches?

A. 1st. Not by the government, because, from their distance, they cannot distinguish individual merit but through the mist of court influence;

and because of the popular prejudices against even the appearance of sinecure jobs, and monopoly.—2d. The occurrence of the three churches is required, in order to unite *all* the inhabitants of Ireland, in this grand object, equally interesting to all.—3d. The clergy are the best qualified to choose the most proper visitors, and they are so circumstanced as to know, and check by a new election, any remissness or partiality in the visitors.—4th. The clergy are thereby reminded of their own duty, viz. to follow up the teacher's exertions, by impressing the precepts of morality on the rising generation, at the same time that they are instructing their respective congregations in the peculiar tenets of their own church, and the leading evidences of Christianity.

2. Why subject the schools, the masters, and the parochial committees to the inspection of visitors, and the exertions of all, to the direction of a supreme committee?

A. To prevent a sinecure neglect in the visitors, to prevent indolence in the teachers, and a consequent relapse of the schools into their present state of torpor, by making the honours and emoluments of every year depend on their respective exertions manifested to the supreme committee by the minuteness of their annual reports, and to submit all their exertions to the direction of the Clergy, the natural superintendants of public education, the natural conservators of the public morals.

SIMPLEX.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PROFESSING in your useful publication, "*permiscere utile dulci*," I conceive the subject of the following paper not altogether foreign to the purpose of your Magazine, as I feel confident that the practice recommended in it, so far from being confined to the faculty, ought rather to be diffused among society in the most plain and public manner.

In your number for January I perceive with pleasure, some important

remarks on the prevention of Burns and Scalds: remarks, which if properly attended to, might often save the life, and prevent the deformity, distress and misery, so often consequent on such unhappy accidents. I am sorry, however, that it is not always in the power of the tender, the affectionate parent or the most attentive nurse, to save the thoughtless innocent from one of the most melancholy accidents to which it is liable, nor can the steadiest artificer, engineer, or domestic be constantly preserved from the agency of heat. Since then the accident is too often unavoidable, and since medical assistance can seldom be procured at the time it is most necessary, I conceive it will be extremely serviceable to the public in general, that every one be directed to proceed with caution, propriety and steadiness, in a moment of confusion and alarm, and to be made acquainted with the applications, which if instantly resorted to, and continued for a proper time, will quickly relieve the patient from unutterable anguish and perhaps an untimely grave.*

That animals as well as vegetables are naturally impatient of great and sudden changes is universally known, and that great vicissitudes of temperature produce important alterations in the animal economy. The action of a part exposed to extremes of heat or cold, will be deranged, or its life destroyed in proportion to the degree of temperature, the duration or suddenness of application, or the structure of the part exposed. When accidents of this kind happen it will be consequently of the utmost importance to bring about the change from either extreme, with very slow gradations. This indeed is usually observed in cases of danger from exposure to severe cold: the body or part affected is not suddenly heated, but rubbed first with such applications as are coldest (ice or snow are generally recommended) the cold is thus gradually and imperceptibly diminished, or what is

the same, the heat very slowly increased. If likewise an animal be overheated by active exertions, he is not immediately plunged, without danger, into cold water, and even if by accident he were, the most effectual method of preventing any bad consequences from the sudden change, would be to support the temperature by exercise and friction.

It is therefore rather singular that when a part has suffered from the action of heat, or is burned, the same precaution is seldom attended to, but instead of this the very coldest applications are immediately applied. This is indeed the practice people would instantly resort to without reflection, and which they would continue to use, from the temporary ease they would experience by it. They would also be sanctioned in using it by the authority of almost every writer on the subject, since the days of Hippocrates, and by a conviction that almost every other case of the kind, had been treated in the same way. The practice is however decidedly reprehensible, and has been lately abandoned by several very eminent practitioners, two of whom, Drs. Kentish and Kinlake, have long amused the world by their controversies, not respecting the superiority of the plan they follow, but the honour of priority in recommending it: an honour, to which I think neither justly entitled; for I believe it has been long known, that numbers of artizans, who from the nature of their employment, are often affected with burns or scalds, more or less severe, have been in the constant habit of exposing the part to the heat of a fire, as near as they can bear, till the pain be completely removed, which is generally the case, in a few minutes; and that nurses have for ages applied and extolled hot brandy profusely applied, "*for taking out the fire*;" whence it is evident that though their theory be erroneous, their practice is just the same with that of Drs. Kentish and Kinlake; and we also find the good old Heister recommending stimulating applications to burns.

Of the stimulating plan I speak, not from any love of theorizing, from any desire of useless innovation, or even

* Slight injuries of this kind will do well in whatever way they are treated, it is where the vis vitæ is low, or mortification threatened, that the heating plan will be essentially useful.

from analogy so strong in its favour; but as I have practically witnessed its superiority over the more common treatment, I earnestly wish it to get a fair trial, and to be made known to every individual who may ever have the misfortune to suffer or witness the tortures of an accident so painful, so distressing; for if the proper practice be not generally known, it can seldom be applied the moment the injury is received, that moment in which it can and will be truly useful by supporting the first excitement, till it be allowed to subside gradually by the gradual diminution of heat; a circumstance of the utmost importance in treating any accident of this kind, to prove the great utility of which, many convincing arguments might be adduced. A few familiar ones will, however, suffice: First, it has been long observed, that if pitch, tallow, wax or resin, in a liquid form, and necessarily hot, fall on any part of the skin, there will be no pain if they be allowed to remain on the part till they become cold, but if rubbed off immediately on falling, great pain will succeed. Secondly, every child has observed, that on plunging the hand or foot into water rather warm, the pain was much greater immediately on exposing the part to the cold, than it was in the water; now the pain brought on in both cases from exposure to the air, is surely not owing to its action, for there is no abrasion of surface, but evidently to the sudden change from heat to cold; another proof of which is, that the pain will still be greater, by removing the hand or foot from very warm to cold water.

Now when a person has the misfortune to receive an injury from excessive heat, either of fire, water, &c. the part ought to be immediately exposed, naked or thinly covered, to the heat of a fire so near as the patient can easily bear, and retained in that situation from ten to thirty minutes, diminishing the heat in proportion to the decrease of pain. During this time and for a few hours after removal from the fire, the part may be covered with thin cloths dipt in hot water, and if the injury be very extensive, the patient should be kept rather warm. This plan of excitement I do not remember to have

seen recommended by any writer: I first took the hint from workmen who used it, after finding other stimulating applications so much recommended, and it was with pleasure I observed its uncommon utility. If, however, the method do not seem quite congenial to the feelings of the patient or attendants, the other stimulating liquors, such as oil of turpentine, spirits of hartshorn, common spirits, or ather, made warm in hot water, ought to be freely applied, if at all convenient. As these, however, are seldom present on the spot where the injury is received, as by evaporation they may often not heat but cool the part, when sparingly or improperly applied, and as fire or warm water are always sure to be present, as their heat can be rendered uniform and easily regulated, and as they are attended with no expence, are they not preferable to the other applications recommended by the advocates for the stimulating treatment?*

It must, however, be admitted, that for the first few minutes it will be productive of additional pain, which might be considerably alleviated for a time, by cooling applications; but this pain, together with the excitement, will soon begin to subside: the vesication, and suppuration will be often prevented; if not, they will be rendered comparatively trifling; all danger of gangrene (mortification) will be completely removed, unless the organization of the part have been entirely destroyed; there will be little danger of contractions, or disagreeable cicatrizations (scars); the distressing rigours generally produced by dashing on cold water, &c. will be prevented

* A jelly of soap, with the addition of a small quantity of perl ashes, has been long a popular remedy, with what advantage I am not quite clear.

The nature of the burn from oil of vitriol, caustic lee, quick-lime, and such acrid substances as destroy the texture of the body, should be carefully studied, and compared with the destruction of the organization of a part by fire, but this would require a longer paper. If the skin be exposed to concentrated oil of vitriol, wiping it with a dry cloth is the safest remedy, and water the worst application.

and the pain will be less under the above treatment in half an hour after the accident, than in twelve hours continuance of cold applications or useless liniments.*

These are surely advantages which every humane man would wish his fellow-creature to enjoy, when suffering under one of the greatest of human calamities. Great, however, as they are, there is no doubt but the practice has been and will be considerably opposed; the practitioner, long accustomed to use a contrary plan, will not be easily persuaded of its injurious tendency; the tender parent and officious nurse, will guard against innovation, and every consideration will naturally give way to the desire of *present ease*, and the *temporary* removal of severe pain. A consideration of this, however, should not deter us from endeavouring to diffuse a general knowledge of a more rational treatment for an accident so distressing, which, since it cannot, like the small pox, be prevented, ought to be met as if expected, by all who are anxious for their own welfare, or the speedy recovery of a suffering friend.

J. MURRAY, Surgeon.

Church-street, Feb. 26, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

THE several sorts of words that compose a language, have their characteristic and definite features. The minute distinctions amongst these are only discernible by close observation. The same words in various uses of them grammatically, though not philosophically considered, become different parts of speech. Many writers have not evinced a sufficient regard to perspicuity in composition; their ideas have been either obscure, or they have unhappily fallen upon an intricate manner of communicating them. Ellipsis is sometimes so much indulged as to make construction and meaning ambiguous. Sentences are often made so long and complex, that the relations, which words and

phrases bear to each other, are remote and doubtful. As the presentation of objects to the mind, and modes of thinking are various; so every composer has something peculiar to himself, in the order and construction of his sentences. Men eminent for literature, have widely differed on the grammar, etymology, and philosophy of the English language. Hence the original and bold theory of John Horne Tooke, A.M. in opposition to the writings of such famous literary characters as Lowth, Harris, and Johnson.

The English language is a medley derived from various sources. By the fondness of man for abbreviated, written, and especially oral communications; by the taste and refinement of those few learned, who have made the improvement of this language their study, it has by various modernizations departed far from its original form. Hence the difficulty of tracing its etymology. If many of its words are apparently, and few or none of them really synonymous, to know their true meaning, and proper application must be an accomplishment of difficult acquisition.

From these observations it is evident, that a considerable share of capacity in judging and reasoning; that a certain maturity of age, and ripeness of intellect are necessary requisites to proficiency in the knowledge of the English language. It will also follow from the foregoing premises, that in conducting the education of youth, it is an excellent mode by exercise of a simple and introductory kind to set those early to work upon the rudiments of English grammar, who are about to be favoured with a liberal education, or are designed to figure in some public profession. Labour and time are necessary to enable the learner to comprehend that connexion of speech and that accurate analysis of words and sentences which are essential to judicious paring, as well as to that smooth and perspicuous arrangement of ideas in composition, and elocution which will qualify every scholar to move in his own literary sphere with reputation and general utility. To attempt to teach a language grammatically is

* VIDE Kentish on Burns, and several papers on the same subject, in the London Medical and Physical Journal.

vain, when the period of attending school is very limited, when parents are averse to give their children a liberal education, or design them only for some mechanical employment. It is a useless waste of time to make pupils merely commit a grammar to memory, without acquainting them with the meaning, application, and end of its contents. To give such acquaintance many pedagogues never attempt, who nevertheless, to feed their own vanity, and swindle their employers, make, with pedantic consequence, an ostentatious parade of teaching English Grammar.

In the prosecution of classical learning, perfection in the knowledge and use of the mother tongue, is an object of the first consequence. To acquire this should be a constant and grand aim from the commencement to the termination of classical studies. Men are seldom called to speak or write in foreign languages. The accurate study of these, then, should ever be with a view to attain the more perfect knowledge of the genius, etymology, beauties, and masterly use of our own. Ignorant of it, our own pen exposes us, and we are liable to be detected at every opening of the mouth. The most accurate and critical erudition in the Latin and Greek languages will not qualify a man for writing or speaking good English. By this reasoning we mean not to depreciate the study of the classics. Those ancient compositions possess information and entertainment sufficient to reward the labours of the attentive and discerning student. The perfection of Grecian and Roman learning shine in them; they display ancient manners, splendid virtues and heroic exploits in all the beauties of poetical and prose composition. They communicate important historical facts, and instruction as to the management of nations in peace and war. They contain bright models of variety and copiousness of expression, powers of invention, and strength of imagination; nor have their contents upon geography and agriculture been rendered obsolete by the lapse of time. No inconsiderable portion of the English language is to be traced to a Latin and Greek origin.

The old and vicious custom of learning Latin and Greek in schools, and never introducing an English grammar is happily almost extinct. While this plan was followed, men who could write Latin similar to the pure style of the Augustan age, were nevertheless blunderers in English composition. The literati now begin to think that the English is also a language, an accurate acquaintance with which youth may laudably cultivate. Had the Grecian and Roman writers held the knowledge of their native language as an object of minor importance, they would never have shone forth with such lustre in the republic of letters; nor would learned moderns and critics have enjoyed such opportunity of spreading their own literary fame by lavishing unlimited eulogies on the ancients.

Intellectual treasure, without a capacity to dispose of them for the best private and publick advantage, are as useless as the ore in the mine, or as the hoarded gold, while it remains in the coffers of the miser.

Without the knowledge of grammar, the orations of the public declaimer must exhibit at least a partial display of unintelligible jargon: and the compositions of that author, who possesses even the strongest mind, and produces the finest thoughts, will but merit the name of incoherent rhapsody. Deficient in this department of literature, which is the substratum of eloquence, the barrister is shackled in pleading the cause of his client, the counsels of the senator make slight impression, the statesman and patriot lamely support their country's rights, and bear with feeble force against the torrent of corruption; yea, the divine fails to arrest attention and strike the heart, though he promulgates the benign doctrines and precepts of religion. It will be grunted, that in critical situations, when property, character, or life is at stake, the unlettered peasant of strong feelings may make an impressive speech: but still it will be infinitely inferior in point of influence, especially upon the cultivated mind, to that of the substantial grammarian, possessed of like feelings, and placed in a similar situation. Men having a good ear, as

well as sound and discerning judgment, who are daily conversant with correct speakers, may be able to speak and write with some degree of grammatical accuracy. Such persons, though they may be right, do not know it. They are taught by custom and observation, not by rudiments. For the alledged correctness of their productions they can produce no definite rule. A law is not easily kept, the precepts of which are unknown. Besides if these authors or orators have not learned grammar from elementary treatises upon it; they have been endeavouring to glean a portion of its laws, by the circuitous and uncertain mode of consulting men instead of books.

By perfection in the knowledge of language, and skill in the use of it, genius appears on the literary stage, decorated in its best attire; law flows from the seat of justice in all its native purity, and binding force, patriotism and liberty blaze in their genuine splendour; the press enjoying the privilege of rational freedom, teems with improvements in the arts and sciences, in policy and manners; and religion, from the mouth of the messenger of peace, like dew upon the parched field, sheds her refreshing influence upon the thirsty soul.

Bulinahinch.

S. E.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE CULTURE OF HEMP.

IN our last number we gave extract, from the agricultural survey of Suffolk, to which we now add, the culture of hemp, as practised in the Isle of Ely and Somersetshire.

The land best calculated for hemp is light, rich, loamy ground—wet or stiff land will not answer: well drained bog, that has been burned and twice planted with potatoes, rape or turnips, will.

The ground to be ploughed in December, harrowed in March and ploughed; and at the time of sowing (which should be from the end of April to the end of May) then ploughed and harrowed, quite level.

Sow your seed broad-cast, twice harrowed, and rolled with a light roller.

Children should attend to keep off the birds until the plant is full two inches above the surface.

The quantity of seed, four bushels to the English acre, and so in proportion to the Irish.

To have what is termed white or summer hemp, you are to pull both male and female, when the flower begins to fall off the male, which will be about 12 or 13 weeks after sowing; tie it in small bundles, and let it stand for a few days in the stook, then bog it from five to ten days in soft clear water, according to the state of the weather. When fit to take out of the water, the green bark will slip off. Spread it on clean grass-land for 10 or 12 days, turning it at least twice. Let it be dry when taken off the grass, it will then be fit for breaking and scutching.

TO PRESERVE SEED.

You must pull the male hemp when the flower drops, taking care to pull paths for the labourers, at the distance of every four yards, so as not to break the female or seed hemp, which will be fit to pull about the middle of September. Tie it in small bundles at the top, and put five together in a stook, the centre bundle to be spread out at the bottom, and the other four round it. They should be left in the stook until perfectly dry, then stacked on a hovel, and let remain until March, when the seed is to be threshed out.

The hemp to be watered from 10 to 15 days, according to the weather, using the like process as with the male or summer hemp, taking care to clean your seed well and keep it dry.

Should the farmer not wish to keep his female hemp until March, he may thresh out the seed when pulled, and water his hemp, but it will require more time in the water in the cold season. The seed will not be so good or so easily preserved as when remaining in the stack.

The like process as practised with flax when taken off the grass, will answer for hemp to prepare for hachling.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ESSAY ON BALLAD COMPOSITION.

Continued from p. 330, No. V.

A TALE of the imagination, a recital of supernatural events, a fanciful description may equally be found in the most barbarous as in the most polished nations, and are therefore to be considered as an earlier species of poetical composition than historical Ballads, which commemorate some circumstance that evinces a more advanced and decided trait of national character. Of the latter kind the most interesting in their description, the most simple in their composition, and most affecting in their incidents, are the historic ballads of the Spanish nation, which had early distinguished itself among the principal kingdoms of Europe by actions which have justly been celebrated by the poet and the historian.

The generally irregular metre of Italian poetry, did not admit of that simple uniformity which is the principal grace of ancient songs, and there are therefore few which can boast much merit in that language; besides, the ardent fancy of their writers, unsatisfied with domestic occurrences, however brilliant, chose distant countries for the scene of their events, where imagination, undetected, might heighten the colouring of truth, and it is from this cause that Palestine and Egypt have gained additional lustre from the genius of Italy.

In France the number of native historical ballads is still more limited, as the *tournaire* of expression and quaint idioms of that national language are little adapted to such compositions.

In southern Europe the fine arts had long flourished before their influence extended to England; and Poetry, the last in their train, had scarcely been heard to breathe one strain of tenderness or feeling, until the genius of Surry enriched the British language with several beautiful and pathetic sonnets and canzonets. But this delay of the muse was compensated by the several excellent little pieces of historic poetry, with which our language was shortly after embellished; and of these Chevy Chase holds the first rank, as well from the merits of its composition as from having been admired

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and criticised by an elegant and celebrated writer.

The following extract from an unpublished tale is given as illustrative of Historical Ballads, and in an ensuing Magazine the subject shall be resumed on elegiac songs.

THE TOURNAMENT.

* * * * *

NEXT came a Spanish cavalier,
Whose armour blaz'd with gold,
Whose helmet wav'd with lofty plumes,
Right goodly to behold.

That year he left his native Spain,
Strange courts and realms to see,
And never did Galicia boast
A braver youth than he.

But vain his prowess, vain his skill,
'Gainst Ormisind were found,
Who at his temple aim'd a blow,
That fell'd him to the ground.

So blooms a lily fair and tall,
By some lone river's side,
Till torn by mountain-torrents' fall,
It sinks beneath the tide.

In courtly guise does Mandlebert,
Next to the charge advance,
"In sooth, most gallant knight, with thee
I fain would couch a lance."

"With me, rash boy!" quoth Ormisind,
"Then sorely shalt thou feel,
That silken fan befits thee more,
"Than sword or lance of steel."

They back their steeds, their bosoms
swell,

With martial ardour's glow,
So fierce they rush, that both their spears
Were shiver'd at a blow.

Then quick they draw their flaming
swords,

And brandish them on high,
While from each casque of burnish'd steel,
The vivid lightnings fly.

They wheel, they spur their mottled steeds,
That foaming pant for breath,
And every blow from either arm,
Seems fraught with instant death.

Thus long they fought with equal skill,
And doubtful was the fight,
Till one fell blow from Mandlebert,
Unhors'd the green-arm'd knight.

So falls at length beneath the storm,
An oak that long has stood,
In proud extent and stately size,
The monarch of the wood.

Thus far'd Lord Oshert and Sir Hugh,
Who wore the crimson shield,
And eke Sir Brent, who oft before,
Made Pagan chiefs to yield. L.
Z

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ROSA....A MORAL TALE.

Continued from p. 107, No. VII.

ROSA replied not, but taking Janet's arm, proceeded in silence, which was first interrupted by the latter, who breathless and fatigued, found it impossible to keep up with the quick agitated step of our heroine.

"Heigh! Sirs! Lady," she said, "ye dimma conseeder, I'm no sae young as yer bonie sel! time was, when Janet could hae footed it wi' the cantiest chiel; but lake-a-day! we canna be a'ways young!"

Rosa, though extremely anxious to return to her mother, in compliance with Janet's feebleness, walked slower; and they had but one turning to make, before they reached Mrs. Echlin's, when a man, with his hat slouching, passing them quick, jostled against Janet so forcibly, as to throw her down; Rosa uttered a faint scream, and dropping the bundle, assisted her to rise. For a few moments, she received no other answer to her inquiries, if she was hurt, than an unintelligible jargon of Scotch exclamations, against "the vile loon, wha had thrown her doon!" She had at length the satisfaction of ascertaining, that she was not materially injured. She then stooped for her bundle; but her consternation may be better conceived than described, when she perceived no trace of it. A confused recollection of what she had heard, of tricks, and London sharpers, occurred to her, now too late. She groaned in agony, and clasping her hands, frantically exclaimed, "Oh God! what will become of me?" Janet's consternation could only be equalled by her own. Mrs. St. Clair's ghastly countenance was presented to Rosa in fancy.

"Oh! my mother!" she said, "my suffering mother! can I return to see thee die, without food, without nourishment?" Her frame shook with contending emotions. No, no, I will not; I will fly to Mrs. Echlin! Ah! can she reject the truth, when confessed to her? I will work to pay the shirts, and I will implore her, by the blessed spirit of mercy, to advance me sufficient to procure sustenance for my mother!"

Her brain seemed to whirl round, and she rapidly darted forward, forgetful of poor Janet, who finding it impossible to overtake her, and not knowing whither to follow her, determined to return to tell "the guid auld lady, what had befa'n her bonie bit lassie;" and to relate her fears, "that it had a' at yince jumpet into the puir thing's brains, for she rinn'd as gin she had ta'en leave o' her senses!" In the interim, poor Rosa, wild and breathless, presented herself before Mrs. Echlin. To an unprejudiced observer, her agitation, and the unaffected distress her tale bespoke, would have brought immediate conviction of its truth; but added to a character, by no means amiable or compassionate, the malicious Mrs. Woody had already poured her poison of detraction into a bosom, but too ready to receive it. Even had Rosa had the good fortune to bring home the shirts in safety, Mrs. Echlin had determined to employ her no more. In such a disposition, she either really did, or what is more likely, affected to disbelieve the whole account.

"A likely story, indeed!" she repeated, viewing the trembling Rosa, with the most pointed contempt. "And so my pretty one, you only lost them a short distance from this; and by some naughty fellow throwing down an old woman too; why did you not bring her also to verify the truth of your assertions? You must hang your next tale better together, child; but dont think I'm to be imposed on, by such a trumped up story; no, no, I know better, you shall be made confess."

"Good Heavens! Madam," said the heart struck Rosa, "you surely do not suspect?"

"Suspect," reiterated Mrs. Echlin. "No, no, but I am quite sure! here Sally! go and tell James to run for a constable; I will see whether I cannot have justice."

"Oh God! you will not, cannot be so cruel," Rosa frantically exclaimed, clinging to the girl, "I adjure you by mercy, by truth, not to condemn me. I am innocent! Oh my mother! my dying mother! prophetic was the last agonized glance I gave you!" Totally overcome she sunk into a chair, while Mrs. Echlin, unmoved by her anguished

exclamations, calmly told the girl, "to go where she desired her;" and she was on the point of obeying her, when a young man of fashionable appearance, who seemed perfectly acquainted with Mrs. Echlin, entered. He said, "he had merely called to take refuge from a curs'd crowd which had collected round a fellow, who had been taken up at a pawn-broker's, under suspicion of pawning a bundle of stolen shirts."

"They are found! they are found! Oh bless you! heaven bless you!" screamed Rosa, and sunk senseless on the floor.

When she again recovered, she found herself supported in the gentleman's arms, whose entrance had relieved her from the fear of being placed under the jurisdiction of a constable; while Mrs. Echlin on one side officiously administered salts.

"Oh dear Miss! how much you have alarmed me," she said, "I am sure I don't think I will get the better of it this month; but I sincerely hope you find yourself recovered." Rosa as she raised herself from her supporter's arms, almost thought, as she took notice to the altered tone of the woman, that she had not yet thoroughly regained her senses.

"I am sure his honour here" continued Mrs. Echlin "has been almost in a state of distraction. But to be sure, there's few like him, so good natured! so compassionate!" Rosa now turned to take a view of his honour who had hitherto stood in silence, at the back of her chair; and her glance was met by a look of such licentious admiration, that it at once impressed her with the danger of her situation; and hastily rising, she addressed Mrs. Echlin.

"You have I trust, madam, obtained a clue to enable you to gain your shirts; and are convinced of the injustice done me by your suspicions."

"Aye to be sure, ma'am, 'twas an ugly mistake, and I have been vexing myself ever since that I had the luck to say any thing about them; for his honour here has been so generous as to say, that even had they been lost, he would pay for them, and twice as many more, rather than you

should spoil your pretty eyes with odious work, and if you will only prove grateful, your mother nor you either shall ever want."

Rosa answered her by a look of contempt, and made a movement towards the door; but the woman intercepted her passage, and the gentleman advanced, and to add to Rosa's terror she now perceived he was in a state of intoxication.

"Lovely angel!" he said, forcibly detaining her, "Mrs. Echlin says true; my life, my soul, my fortune, are devoted to your service, small sacrifices if I can obtain your smiles."

"Unhand me, sir!" said Rosa, indignantly struggling with her emotions. "No, no, my lovely girl, you cannot think me such an idiot, as to neglect so favourable an opportunity;" and he endeavoured to force her into the room.

The reason of Rosa, "like a frightened spirit," was again retreating, when the shop door opened, and a customer entered, and with a swiftness which madness only could have given her, she eluded his grasp, and darting down the street, was out of sight in a moment. With an agility, which mocked all pursuit, she hurried along several streets; nor did her scattered faculties permit her to perceive, that her wild walk, and frenzied looks, attracted universal attention. "She is a lunatic! she has escaped from a mad house!" shouted several. "Let us seize her," said a rough looking man, catching her by the robe. A soul-piercing shriek burst from Rosa. "Oh mercy Heaven!" she frantically exclaimed, "I am innocent!" and springing on the steps of a genteel looking house, she sunk senseless against the door.

But here poor Rosa was fortunate. The spirit of benevolence presided within these walls, in the form of the widowed Mrs. Cleveland; who checking the ungenerous suspicions of the multitude, compassionately ordered a servant to convey the hapless victim into the house, and close the door. Rosa now with glazed eye, glanced wildly around her. Mrs. Cleveland took her hand, but dropped it with horror; for it was burning with the rage of fever.

"I am innocent! indeed I am!" said the poor maniac, "look not so suspiciously on me! but oh! take me to my mother! she will die! my God! she will die!" she more frantically ejaculated. "Janet left me too! and you! you will cruelly, keep me here! I cannot pay for the shifts! they were taken from me! but I am innocent!"

"Poor young creature!" sighed Mrs. Cleveland, gazing on her with pity, "I hope thou art: at all events, in protecting thee, I err on the right side."

A bed was now prepared, the family physician sent for, and every attention necessary procured for the poor invalid. But for more than ten days, the strength of the disorder baffled their utmost efforts. During this time, her ravings were so incoherent, that Mrs. Cleveland could discover no connected clue, to guide her to a knowledge of her friends, or relieve their anxiety. But the moment Rosa was perfectly awake to her present situation, she related to Mrs. Cleveland her simple tale of truth, and in accents of real anguish, implored her to send, and inquire after her mother. The benevolent Mrs. Cleveland lost no time in complying with her entreaties, and lest a servant should mistake, visited the humble house of Janet, herself; but alas! the intelligence she gained, was of the most fatal nature. Mrs. St. Clair, awaked from her uneasy slumber by the uncouth exclamation of Janet, listened to the account of Rosa's loss, and the consequent rapidity with which she darted from Janet's side, with a silence uninterrupted, except by a heavy groan: Janet surprised that she did not answer, hastily drew aside the curtain. In that groan the spirit of the unfortunate Mrs. St. Clair had evaporated, and there remained of her but the ghastly form of death.

"They waited," Janet continued, "two days for the young lady, when her neighbours, one and a', came and counselled wi' her, to sell a pair o' her lodger's clothing, to get the guid lady decently happy up in the kirk yard; she did sae," she said, "and the guid ma'dam attended by her neighbours, and hersel, was on that

day four days laid in a wee bit village, short o' a mile frae the skirts o' the city, a' that remained," she said, "was unco safe, for the puir young lady, gin she e'er ca'd, to ask for them, and here," she continued, taking from her pocket a very handsome locket, with hair in it, of two different colours, "here was a bonie bit thing, she had about her neck, which, nae doubt, Miss would be glad to hae, and whilk I'll preserve till I see her pretty face."

Mrs. Cleveland was so deeply affected with Janet's simple tale of woe, that unable to articulate, she pressed her purse into the good old creature's hand, and with a heart overwhelmed with the emotions of sorrow and benevolence, she hastened to break the intelligence to Rosa.

Mrs. Cleveland was the widow of one of the most dissipated men of his age; who not only contrived, ere he fell a victim to his debaucheries, to spend a considerable property she brought him, but to ruin her happiness, and impair her health. On his death, Mrs. Cleveland with a fortune that did her honour, summoned his numerous creditors; and in the fulfilment of justice retained for herself, nothing but her jointure, about four hundred a year. In default of her issue, it was to descend to the children of a favoured sister, who resided in Ireland; and as Mrs. Cleveland continued childless, the property was considered as their own. Mrs. Cleveland's establishment was genteel, though not profuse; her society as much as possible selected, and her hand and her heart equally open to the melting impulses of charity. Her health during Mr. Cleveland's life, had been too much impaired, to be ever perfectly reinstated; and she had often wished for an interesting female companion, who would soothe the lassitude of sickness by the charms of conversation, and relieve her at times by doing the honours of her house. Just such a one had Providence, she thought, bestowed her in Rosa: young, deserted, and interesting; and her bosom swelled with the most benevolent plans for her welfare. The intelligence she had to communicate, though conveyed in the tenderest

manner, was the occasion of a severe relapse of Rosa's fever; and slow and tedious was her second recovery; for it was corroded by the bitter tears shed for a departed mother.

On this gloomy season however we will not dwell; nor on her melancholy meeting with the good old Janet, from whom she received the locket, which she had been often told by her mother, contained the hair of both parents; though she knew not but her father had been long dead. Mrs. Cleveland amply rewarded the affection of Janet, and while Rosa in the broken accents of a grateful heart, acknowledged her goodness, she entreated her to crown it all, by permitting her to accompany Janet on a visit to the grave of her mother. To this Mrs. Cleveland, after some time thought it better to consent, than to agitate her by contradiction; but with her usual consideration, determined to accompany her; and as her income by no means allowed the support of a carriage, she ordered a hackney coach, for privacy, and in a few hours, they, with Janet, were set down at a small public house, in the village, whence they walked to the humble church-yard; which was picturesquely situated in a green and hollow dell, surrounded with wild woodbine, and roses; and here in a little sheltered spot, Janet pointed out Mrs. St. Clair's grave. Tall weeds, intermingled with wild flowers, waved over the humble mound; and a plain white stone erected by the orders of Mrs. Cleveland, simply told the name of the deceased. Rosa's heart throbbed with a variety of emotions. "My mother! my angel mother!" she feebly articulated, as she sunk on the grave, and the long grass concealed her burning tears. Mrs. Cleveland suffered the first torrent to flow, ere she disturbed her. She then insisted on her departure, and pale, and cold as marble, she suffered herself to be led away; yet it was with a pang, that almost annihilated existence.

A long and gloomy period of dejection now ensued; but the youthful heart is not formed to despair, and the stroke which would crush the debility of age, presses lightly on the

elastic spirit of youth. Rosa's disposition was naturally very lively; but hitherto it had been crushed, and its energies repelled by continued misfortune. But now, beloved by Mrs. Cleveland; introduced to a large circle of friends, to every one of whom, she was their dear incomparable Rosa; every word she said applauded; every look admired; what wonder, that her heart gave the credence of truth to all she heard, and that fond visions of felicity danced in rosy forms before her?

Rosa thought the generality of her acquaintance amiable; but there was one in particular enthusiastically regarded; loved almost to a degree impassioned. She was a young widow, a favourite also with Mrs. Cleveland: left by her husband, in rather confined circumstances, Mrs. Lendrick by the most strenuous efforts, had placed herself, and three children, in a genteel situation of life. A congeniality of sentiment appeared to unite her and Rosa. Just so enthusiastic were her feelings, just so warm her approbation of genius and worth. Rosa styled her the sister of her heart; and dear was she then to that heart, as the warm blood which circled round it.

Ah Rosa! unsuspecting Rosa! you have yet to learn a harsh lesson, envenomed with the bitterness of despair; you have yet to learn the agony of finding deceit in the being you confided in; to learn, that not all who say you are dear to them, are sincere; that many conceal under the mask of professions, the ranklings of hatred and malice; and that few, few, are like yourself, guileless and warm-hearted.

Rosa, though she had devoted her heart to friendship, had as yet experienced no warmer sentiments, but she was not long permitted to remain insensible to them. A gentleman who was extremely intimate with Mrs. Cleveland, requested her permission to introduce to her notice, a young foreigner, who had been making a tour through England; and as yet had formed but few intimacies in the metropolis. The naivete of Mr. de Clifford's broken English; his elegant manners, added to a gaiety, which

spread its influence all around him, irresistibly called forth Rosa's most animated admiration. Her vanity was also highly flattered by the decided attention he paid her from the moment he was introduced. Our Rosa was no faultless monster. She was much too romantic, and too hasty in many of her judgments; and ere many weeks elapsed, the interesting stranger found her warm heart all his own. Mrs. Cleveland beheld this attachment with mingled pleasure and pain. Her own health was precarious, and declining; and she certainly wished to see Rosa settled, ere she should be called from her; but those wishes rather pointed at others whose establishment and connections could be more decidedly ascertained. Rosa, however, thought not so cautiously, for hers was the season of youth and credulity.

When Mr. De Clifford laid his proposals before Mrs. Cleveland, she seriously questioned him, as to the propriety of his entering into so important an engagement without the consent of his friends. The young Swiss replied, "That his father never had, and he was convinced never would contradict his wishes, and that no other of his friends had a right to controul him, nor had he a doubt of his Rosa's meeting a reception worthy of her, in his native country."

"You intend then," said Mrs. Cleveland, turning pale, "to take her immediately to Switzerland?" "With your permission, certainly, Madam."

Mrs. Cleveland's heart felt chilled, though she knew not wherefore. "Would it not be better," she continued, in a tremulous voice, "to defer your marriage till you can prepare a proper establishment for your wife, in your native country?" This the impassioned wishes of the young man at once rejected; but as he still perceived Mrs. Cleveland hesitate, he added, "that if permitted to make his Rosa his own, irrevocably beyond the power of fate to snatch her from him, he would in a short time consent to leave the treasure of his heart under her protection, until he made a voyage to Switzerland, to prepare his friends to receive her. At that period," he

somewhat haughtily added, "I doubt not of bringing documents with me, sufficiently respectable to convince her, that in promising her happiness as far as I can be the means of making her happy and ensuring her a kind reception, I say not too much. For the present, I have bills on the bank of England, more than sufficient for our support until I reach home."

A glance of entreaty from the dark eye of Rosa, who was present, joined to this generous offer, induced Mrs. Cleveland to form no more objections, which she also saw would be useless, and the young couple were made happy in the accomplishment of their mutual wishes. As Mrs. Cleveland's health, however, was much too precarious to permit her to share in, or endure the routine of visiting, which generally attends a wedding, Mr. De Clifford took genteel lodgings for his wife, and they shone forth at once the meteors and the favourites of the season. Mrs. De Clifford was even more loved, more sought after than Rosa St. Clair, and none was more fervent in her wishes for her happiness, none more profuse in her professions of friendship, or apparently more rejoiced in her prospects than Mrs. Lendrick; yet, Rosa was not happy. She found, too late, that Mr. De Clifford was not "all that youthful poets fancy, when they love". His broken English gave him a pleasing appearance of simplicity of character; this he by no means possessed, and an enthusiasm of manner, which promised the man of taste and genius, and which he had mechanically attained, was of considerable advantage to him. Here precisely was it, his character failed—His mind could not assimilate with Rosa's—he was by no means the intelligent, the enlightened companion she expected to find him. Volatile, and fond of company, he existed but in a croud. The emanations of genius or sentiment he heard unmoved, and though he seemed to adore Rosa, yet he often treated her opinions on these points with a degree of ridicule which deeply wounded her. It was his most ardent wish to see her admired, yet like a way-ward child, when his desires were gratified he quarrelled with them, and jealous of the least attention she

paid to another, would often interrupt, and snatch her from the most pleasing conversation. Rosa in vain strove to change the current of his ideas, and attach him to domestic life; till at length, chilled by frequent repulses, she endeavoured to crush in her own heart every sentiment which had formerly inspired it; and tried to soften the bitterness of disappointment by plunging with equal avidity as himself into every amusement.

To be concluded in our next.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
THE enclosed account of the progress of vaccination in Ireland, taken from the report of the Institution in Dublin, will, no doubt, obtain ready admission in your pages; some of which, I perceive, have been already devoted to the consideration of this subject. The annexed paper may be useful in removing the prejudices which still exist against the new practice. More extensive publication may also introduce this valuable discovery more generally through the country parts of Ireland, in many parts of which it has not as yet obtained the notice its merits deserve. A list of subscribers is annexed to the report, which I have not transmitted, as I did not wish to obtrude any unnecessary matter on you. On perusing it, I took notice, not without some regret, that there is no subscriber to the Institution from Belfast, and but one from its neighbourhood. I sincerely hope that the perusal of the following plain statement will induce some individuals of your public-spirited town, to become its advocates, and to disseminate its value more generally through the north of Ireland, by establishing a society here on similar principles, or opening a communication with that in Dublin, so as to render the merits of Vaccine Inoculation more generally known and understood. I am, Sir,
Yours, GALENIUS.

March 2d, 1809.

COW-POCK INSTITUTION,
Under the patronage of his Grace, the Lord Lieutenant, No. 55, Sackville-street.

OPENED on the 14th of January, 1804, under the direction of the un-

dersigned Physicians and Surgeons of this City, for the purposes of securing a succession of Cow-Pock Matter, of inoculating gratuitously the Children of the Poor, and of supplying the different parts of the Kingdom with genuine Infection.

Physicians.

Joseph Clarke,
James Cleghorn,
Thomas Evory.

Surgeons.

George Stewart,
Ralph S. Obre,
Solomon Richards.

An Abstract from the Register of Inoculations and Distribution of Matter.

	Patients Inoculated.	Packets issued to Practitioners in general.	Packets to Army Surgeons.
1804	578	776	236
1805	1,032	1,124	178
1806	1,356	1,340	220
1807	2,156	1,790	320
1808	3,002	2,285	333
Totals.	8,124	7,315	1,287

By the foregoing Abstract from the Register of Inoculations and Distribution of Infection, it appears, that the applications for inoculation and supplies of infection increase daily.—The Directors of the Cow-Pock Institution observe, with great satisfaction, that the practice is every day becoming more general, so as to have nearly accomplished, in some parts of Ireland, the extermination of Small Pox. Much credit is due to those Medical Gentlemen, who, by using their utmost exertions and holding out every inducement to all descriptions of people, have succeeded in establishing Vaccination in several districts. The Clergy also, have been of essential service, many of whom inoculate the poor of their respective parishes.

The Incorporated Society have directed, that the practice be adopted in the Charter Schools and Nurseries throughout Ireland. It would be well, if the example were followed by others entrusted with the care of Public Charities, Schools, &c. and those employing young people in Manufactories.

Of Eight Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Four patients vaccinated at the Cow-pock Institution, exclusive of a great number inoculated by the Directors in private practice, many hundreds have been exposed, in every possible way, to the contagion of Small Pox, and even inoculated for the disease, yet the Register does not furnish a single instance of Small Pox follow-

ing perfect Vaccination, although every case of reputed failure has been carefully investigated. Such facts, it is presumed, cannot fail to arrest public attention.

The Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London, Dublin and Edinburgh have, after a most minute and impartial examination, given their opinion in favour of the new inoculation. And the London College do not hesitate to declare, "That they feel it their duty strongly to recommend the practice of Vaccination; that they have been led to this conclusion by no preconceived opinion, but by the most unbiassed judgment, formed from an irresistible weight of evidence which has been laid before them; and that when the number, the respectability, the disinterestedness, and the extensive experience of its advocates, are compared with the feeble and imperfect testimonies of its few opposers,—and when it is considered that many who were once adverse to Vaccination have been convinced by further trials, and are now to be ranked among its warmest supporters, the truth seems to be established as firmly as the nature of such a question admits; so that the College of Physicians conceive that the public may reasonably look forward with some degree of hope to the time when all opposition shall cease, and the general concurrence of mankind shall at length be able to put an end to the ravages at least, if not to the existence, of the Small Pox."

The Directors have given extensive circulation to the very satisfactory report of the College of Physicians of London, which they conceive, has materially strengthened the public confidence in Vaccination. And, if there be any, who still entertain doubts, to such, they recommend a careful perusal of the Article on Vaccination, in the 17th Number of the Edinburgh Review.

Although no case of Small Pox following Vaccination has hitherto come before the Directors, they do not doubt the possibility of the occurrence, such having been reported upon respectable authority. Similar failures, it is well known, have happened in variolous inoculation. While Vaccination affords equal security to the constitution,

it avowedly possesses many advantages over Small Pox inoculation. For instance, of the above 8,124 cases the Cow Pock has not proved fatal in a single instance, neither has it produced blindness, nor other species of deformity; whereas, had the like number been inoculated with Small Pox one in a hundred would in all probability have perished, and several remained blind and subject to every species of deformity: and what is still a more serious evil, such a number infected with Small Pox, would spread the contagion in all directions, so as to be productive of incalculable mischief. The child of a poor room-keeper in this city, who was inoculated with Small Pox, infected nine children in the same house, of whom six died. Had Cow Pock been used, six lives would have been saved, and much trouble to the wretched parents prevented.

The extreme prevalence of Chicken-pock, during the present year, attended occasionally with considerable indisposition, gave rise to some embarrassment. Many children who had had the Cow Pock, being seized with the complaint, were at first supposed to have the Small Pox; by attending however to the progress and appearance of the eruption, the nature of the disease was ascertained, and all doubt removed. The father of a child on whom the Chicken Pock appeared after vaccination, was certain that it was Small Pox, nor could he be convinced of his error, until the disease spread to other children who before had the Small Pox.

The Directors, satisfied from their own experience and from accumulated evidence derived from the most respectable sources, feel confident in recommending vaccination; and they hope the practice in Ireland, will continue to have the sanction and support of the Medical Profession, the Clergy, and the Public in general.

SAMUEL B. LABATT, Sec.

December 31, 1808.

Packets of infection, with printed directions, two shillings and sixpence each: or Gentlemen may be supplied for one guinea per annum—Surgeons of the army to be supplied by applying to the Army Medical Board.

Permission having been obtained to transmit Letters relating to the Institution, through the Post Office, *Free of Expence*: those applying for Cow-Pock Matter, are requested to direct as follows:

"On the business of the Cow-Pock Institution,

DR. LABATT, Secretary,
No. 55, Sackville-Street."

And such Letters to be sent under cover, addressed thus:

"EDWARD S. LEES, Esq.
General Post-Office, Dublin."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

INQUIRER has, with great propriety, brought before the view of the public the two jarring or contradictory accounts which have been published, in the *Belfast*, and in the *Gentleman's Almanack*, respecting the eclipse which is to take place the latter end of the ensuing month, for the laudable purpose of ascertaining which of them, if either, is correct. Agreeably, therefore, to his request, I shall attempt to place the subject in a clear point of view, so as to enable him at any time to know with certainty when an eclipse is to happen, whether it will be *solar* or *lunar*.

An eclipse of the sun, is occasioned by the moon, which is an opaque body, being interposed between the earth and the sun; but such interposition cannot take place at any other time than that of *new moon*, hence it is evident, that no eclipse of the sun can possibly take place at any other time; and as there will be an eclipse on the 29th of next month, but the *new moon* not being at the same time, that cannot be a *solar eclipse*.

An eclipse of the moon is occasioned by the earth being in a right line between the sun and moon, and preventing the light of the former from shining on the latter, and rendering her luminous; but the earth is not in this situation at any other time than at that of *full moon*, consequently there can be no eclipse of the moon but at the time of *full*,—and we find that the middle of the ensuing eclipse and time of full moon differ but six minutes, of course the eclipse must be *lunar*, as announced in the *Belfast Al-*

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manack. The error committed in the *Gentleman's Almanack* on this subject, is, in my opinion, merely typographical, and not to be attributed to the calculator.

G. T.

Belfast, March 12, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE BARONY OF ARMAGH.

Concluded from p. 98, No. VII.

THE origin of this establishment will be found in the extracts from Harris' *Hibernica*, which are subjoined in the appendix to this work; but the school was not actually endowed till the reign of Charles I, as appears from the statutes.

From the earliest accounts of literature in Ireland it appears, that the city of Armagh was famous for learning; and church discipline was studied here with great exactness. It is said, so eminent was the College of Armagh for learned divines, that, in a synod, held in the abbey of Clane, in the county of Kildare, anno 1162, which consisted of the archbishop of Armagh, twenty-six bishops, and numerous abbots, it was decreed, under a solemn act, that no student should be admitted a professor of theology in the national church, who had not a certificate of his having duly graduated in the College of Armagh. And, in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*, it is copied from the *Annals of Innisfallen*, that "Roderic O'Conchobhair, king of Connaught, anno 1169, to advance learning in this university, granted to the head master an additional annual pension of ten oxen, and bound his successors to fulfil the said grant, on condition that a public school should be there kept open for all scholars from every part of Ireland and Scotland." In Sir James Ware's *Antiquities of Ireland*, he quotes, on the statement of Florence M'Carthy, that the number of students at one time exceeded seven thousand.

The instances, which I mentioned, of Lord Rokeby's regard for the prosperity of Armagh were gratefully felt by the inhabitants, and called forth their public spirit in an eminent degree. New streets were built, and all the offensive obstacles to improvement, of which this city had

been almost proverbially notorious, were removed; a strict observance of the police, and laws of the corporation was enforced; the streets paved and flagged; lamps were erected, and the best houses were adorned with iron railing in front. An elegant sessions-house was built at this time, and also a very handsome edifice for public assemblies, the profits of which were to be applied to charitable purposes. In this latter building the ball-room is sixty feet by thirty, with card and supper rooms on a large scale, and the kitchens and servants' apartments are suitably laid out. This building is not yet completed; I understand it has remained these some years past in its present state.

Lord Rokeby's purse was always ready to contribute to these laudable improvements, which were carried on under his sole direction, and proved his correct taste and judgment for all public works.

A very complete shambles, which are well enclosed, and elegantly constructed, were erected by him, and at his sole expense; and he set on foot the important work of supplying the town with pipe-water, which was not completed till after his death.

Lord Viscount Cremorne, who has a very fine property in this vicinity, handed over to the corporation the sum of 1000*l.* for the forwarding of this public work, which was by subscription lately completed. Pumps, at proper distances, are erected through the streets, for public use.

The barracks are of modern date, and are a very handsome building, well designed, covering an extensive area, which is well enclosed, and stands on a fine open eminence, fully commanding the county gaol, which is contiguous.

The gaol is also a modern and complete building, standing on a plain, with every advantage of good air, and proper accommodations for the prisoners; it is admirably planned as to strength and security.

I must here remark, that in every approach to this capital town, the grand appearance of public buildings, and the numerous improved demesnes in the environs, convey to the stranger the most respectable ideas of this dis-

trict, which are by no means lessened as he enters the city, the streets being principally rebuilt on a regular elevation, and the houses neatly slated, almost all of them having marble window-stools, door-cases, and parapets, or eve courses. Indeed, in point of convenience of building materials, Armagh is very happily circumstanced, and is remarkably well situated, contiguous to the ports of Newry and Dundalk, for the supply of such necessities as we cannot command at home.

The market place is triangular, and is on the declivity of the hill on which the cathedral stands; at the base are the ruins of a market house, which was begun by Primate Bolton, but I do not learn that it was ever completely finished. The best front faced the cathedral, and between these two buildings is the antique mutilated market cross.

It appears that the top of the cross has been damaged; the symbolic subject is Christ's crucifixion between the thieves, in old basso-relievo; the others are so much obliterated, that I leave their solution to more expert antiquarians; they appear rather a kind of rude ornamental fret-work, than any distinct characters.

The trade of Armagh is principally engaged in the linen manufacture, the market for which is held on Tuesdays, and it is averaged that 7000*l.* are weekly expended for wools in this market.

In so extensive and well appointed a town, it is unnecessary to mention that every necessary and useful branch of manufacture, the woollen trade only excepted, is more or less engaged in, sufficient for the supply of its inhabitants, and the country around; but though severally respectable, they are not of any particular note, nor have extensive capitals engaged in them.

The present Primate intends to present the town with an elegant market house at his own expense, and, as in point of situation, the county courthouse is deemed very inconvenient, and an estimate of a new and grand edifice, to the amount of 6000*l.* for this purpose, is now before the grand jury, his Grace intends the site of the present building for that of the market-

house, which is certainly the best place it could be erected on, from its central situation and contiguity to the market place; the ruins of the present market house are indeed a disgrace to the town, and ill correspond with any of its public buildings. His Grace also intends to promote, as much as possible, the sale of wheat in this market, which it is strangely deficient in, as the principal part of this grain, which is raised in the vicinity, is sold in Portadown market.

A very fine mall, or terrace, has been lately enclosed with a dwarf wall, dyke, and iron gates, within which is a neat gravel walk, encompassing a lawn, for the enclosing of which Lord Rokeby procured an act of parliament, and it is but lately finished. This work was completed by subscription, which will be returned, as the rent produced from the lawn in some years will repay both principal and interest, after which the property of the land is vested in the sovereign and corporation of Armagh, by which the town is governed; it is but justice to this body to remark, that by their attention the police of this city is well regulated, nor is the eye disgusted, nor the passenger annoyed with any of those nuisances which too frequently disgrace many of the most respectable towns in Ireland.

Having faintly traced the princely munificence, the splendid liberality, and elegant taste of Lord Rokeby, in the city, we see in the adjoining demesne of the Primate a most magnificent palace, which he built for the residence of the archbishops of this see, and on this site he erected a very grand chapel for the use of the Primate's family, suitable to so princely a residence.

His Lordship also ornamented and planted the demesne in the highest modern style, which the present Primate has now occupied with the most improved systems of husbandry; indeed his Grace's farm-yard, implements of husbandry, and mode of culture, afford a bright example to the gentry, of what their valuable demesnes could yield under judicious management.

In the Primate's demesne a very elegant obelisk was erected by Lord

Rokeby, in compliment to the late Duke of Northumberland, his lordship's friend and patron, on which is engraved a suitable inscription; this pillar is very ornamental, and cost above 1000*l*.

In the unlimited extension of Lord Rokeby's views, which were suitable to his generosity, his Grace had contemplated the pulling down the present Cathedral*, and erecting a very fine one at his own expense, when the old work of the tower proved too decayed to support a steeple and bell-fry; and, had he lived, he would doubtless have accomplished it. If any public work had not a fund sufficient for its completion, after a subscription had been taken, to which his Lordship was always a liberal donor, he lent the remainder of the required sum, for which he would never receive any interest.

There is scarcely a precedent of such a magnificent fortune having been expended, during the life of the proprietor, on the improvement of his own estate for the benefit of his heirs; how eminently luminous then was the generous spirit of Lord Rokeby, who bestowed all these advantages and solid gifts to the public, from which his family could never derive any revenue? I do not presume to say, that a life of celibacy should be one of the necessary qualifications for a public employment of great emolument, for without a liberal spirit it will avail but little, but happy it is for the nation, when such trusts are honoured in the care of so resplendent a generosity and correct taste, as the late Lord Rokeby possessed, and it is fortunate for the public, that those eminent virtues were not restrained in his Lordship by a matrimonial connection†. Had his Grace a wife or children, such a distribution

* His Grace the present Primate intends to build a Chapel of Ease to the Cathedral in the vicinity of Armagh, contiguous to the barracks and school, which is very requisite, as the Cathedral is quite too small for the large and increasing congregation of this city.

† That his Grace was not an advocate for a life of celibacy is certain, but a disappointment in an attachment had, in early life, fixed his resolution of remaining single.

of his fortune would have been an unjust and unwarrantable sacrifice.

The virtues of this great man are too well recorded to require panegyric. My readers will doubtless expect to learn, that a kind acknowledgment of his eminent qualifications and liberality has been paid in the erection of a splendid monument to his memory, and in these pages to see copied an epitaph suitable to his love of literature, displaying the grateful feelings of the nation for the general good they derive from his liberality; of the opulent city of Armagh, for the local benefits she enjoys from his bounty; or of his lordship's successors, to whom he bequeathed such an ample fortune; but sorry am I to say, that no such affectionate memorial is in existence.

Although Lord Rokeby's virtues will not be forgotten, when the frail monuments of human ingenuity have mouldered into dust; yet so long as this dutiful tribute, this just debt is unpaid, the strong contrast of his Grace's liberality will add shame to the reproach, and confirm the disgrace either in a particular or in a general view.

Respecting this ancient see of Armagh, it is indeed a matter of surprise there are no public records. A few books or papers were purchased or procured from his friends by Lord Rokeby, which he bequeathed in such a manner, that they are not easily accessible, being left to the governors of the library in trust, the archbishop, for the time being, having power to take away any of them, provided he gives a receipt, binding upon him and his executors; and in his will he adds these remarkable words: "*My intention is, that the librarian, and the governors of the library, shall be excluded from the examination of these manuscripts, and that the trust shall extend no further than to the means of their preservation.*"

The antiquarian must therefore arrest his curiosity; it would be highly improper, if not impertinent, to wish to make public their contents, when a man of such superior understanding had reason to confide them to but one person in existence, and which doubtless he had every right to dispose of as he thought proper, they having been his private property. As

the cause of this extraordinary concealment cannot be explained, it would be unjust, and ungenerous in the extreme to the memory of his Grace, were we to impute it to any illiberal motive, as to so base a principle his whole conduct through life was a direct contradiction.

The city of Armagh sent two members to parliament before the union, it now returns but one; the Primate has the patronage of the borough.

The county infirmary is within the town, and is very punctually attended to; besides the regular county charge, it is maintained by very liberal subscriptions and some annual bequests.

A charter school was founded in Armagh anno 1758, to which the Primate and corporation of Armagh gave twenty acres of land for ever, rent free, for the site and accommodation of the house. The first endowment of this charity was a gift of 48*l.* per annum, being a rent charge from Mrs. Drelincourt, widow of the dean of the see; it is now a noble institution and the most extensive of any of the kind in Ireland. *COOTE'S Survey of Armagh.*

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE AUCTION.

Mercury.

THE hour is nearly arrived, and no purchasers have yet made their appearance. I fear we shall have a dull sale to-day.

Jupiter. Very possibly. In the mean time, however, put the several articles in their best dress, and brush them up carefully, that they may appear to advantage, and may invite bidders to purchase.

Mer. I shall do every thing in my power to recommend them to the attention of the company. *Jup.* I see a few coming forward; you had better prepare the lots and put the goods in order.

Mer. Gentlemen, attend. There will be no trust. Good bills will be taken, and an allowance of 5 per cent for ready cash. *Jup.* Begin with two or three private characters: it is better to reserve persons of distinction till more purchasers shall be assembled.

Mer. Here, Gentlemen, is a very gay and costly article; a lady of fashion. Her very dress, you see, is almost

worth an estate. *Bidder*. Very pretty, indeed. But what occasion have I for all this finery? What would you have me do with all these ribbands, and strings, and trumpery? Did I want an article indeed such as a looking glass, that is only intended to be looked at, this might suit well enough. I want a wife, or a house-keeper, and I am afraid I shall not be accommodated in the present instance. May I ask the creature a few questions?

Mer. By all means. *Bid*. Pray, Madam, may I take the liberty of asking you what accomplishments you may have to recommend you. *Lady Trifle*. Accomplishments, Sir! Do you question the accomplishments of a lady of my rank and fashion? I protest you put me quite into an agitation. O, I shall faint, if I am not supported! You monster, you insipid brute, to insult me so. *Bid*. I beg pardon, but I meant no offence. I merely wished to know what you were good for, before I bought you.

Sup. It is right, I command you to answer the gentleman discreetly and civilly. *Bid*. May I inquire then concerning your qualifications? *Lady T*. I dress better than Lady Fribble and all the fashionables. I laid out an hundred pounds last week on a head-dress. *Bid*. I have no hundreds for such purposes. But besides your perfect knowledge of dress, what other good qualities are you possessed of? *Lady T*. I spent five years under the care of Mr. Rigadoon, the dancing-master. *Bid*. Well, and what then? *Lady T*. I was very much improved. *Bid*. A rare perfection truly. 'Tis to me a new discovery, that there may be improvement in the heels as well as the head. It is a good thing, I find, for a lady to be able to jump, and fling, and kick, and show her legs. This is modern delicacy, I presume. I am satisfied with the humble ambition of being able to walk. *Lady T*. I have studied Hoyle. *Bid*. Pray what is that? *Lady T*. O la! you don't know Hoyle! *Bid*. I am really ashamed to say I have not studied that author. May I take the liberty of asking on what branch of science or history he has written? *Lady T*. Why I really cannot say to which the subject belongs; but he has written on cards. *Bid*.

It is usual for composers to write on paper. He has printed on cards, perhaps for the amusement of children. *Lady T*. O you dull creature, you mistake me entirely. The subject he has written on is cards. *Bid*. Indeed! How is that? *Lady T*. Why he has made cards the subject of his descriptions. *Bid*. Still unintelligible. *Lady T*. Why, can't you comprehend that he has described how to play cards? *Bid*. Truly no; pray what are cards? *Lady T*. You don't know what cards are? They are bits of pasteboard that have different figures stamped upon them. *Bid*. So then your author has written about these stamped pieces of pasteboard! *Lady T*. He has. *Bid*. And what has he said about them? *Lady T*. He has described the way of playing them. *Bid*. Playing them; pray, what is that? *Lady T*. Why, I really do not know how I shall answer that question; generally when you play cards you throw them down and take them up. *Bid*. So this author whom you have studied has taught you how to throw bits of pasteboard about the room. This may do well enough for children; but I can't see how grown persons can be entertained by it. What is the use of throwing the cards about as you have described? *Lady T*. To win money. *Bid*. How is that? *Lady T*. Why what is lost by one is gained by another. *Bid*. I understand you not, nor can I comprehend what gain or loss there can be in this childish business, farther than the loss of — time. *Lady T*. I gain sometimes. *Bid*. And lose sometimes I suppose? *Lady T*. O yes; one cannot always win. It was only last week that Mr. Sharp, the actor, won from me a cool hundred, at cribbage; but it was merely an accident. *Bid*. A singular accident, truly. A few such accidents would soon empty my purse. I fear you have not studied your author to advantage. But may I have the pleasure of knowing your other accomplishments? *Lady T*. I flirt with the young men to the envy of all my female acquaintance. I delight in having half-a-dozen inaking love to me at once. *Bid*. A handsome recommendation, truly. You must be greatly benefited by having a parcel of dangles dancing attendance upon you. But how have you improv

ed your mind? Have you stored it with useful knowledge? *Lady T.* I flatter myself I am well informed. I have read *Tom Jones*, the *Arabian Nights*, and *Tristram Shandy*. I generally read the deaths and marriages and the fashions for the month, out of the News-papers.

Bid. I am satisfied as to your information. What is your employment for the day?

Lady T. O, I rise at 11 or 12. After breakfast I dress, and am ready to go out at 2 or 3. I spend a couple of hours dropping cards or shopping; or I ramble about the fashionable parts of the town. I dine at 6 or 7; after which I go to the play or to a party. If I go to the play I converse the most of the night with Mr. Fudge. Mr. Fudge is a dear creature, he has always something to say that makes one laugh. I fear he will win my heart after all. If it be not play night, I sip a cup of coffee at 9 or 10, play cards for 2 or 3 hours, sup at 1, and go to bed between 2 and 3 in the morning. *Bid.* What do you ask for her? *Mer.* £50. Does any one bid more? *Bid.* 'Tis too much. I'll give you 10 for her. I'll make something by these gew-gaws and baubles; and I'll part with her to Mr. Fudge for a few pounds more. *Sup.* Take her at the price. It is not likely we shall get a better bid. *Bid.* There is the money in Bellast Notes. *Mer.* Very good, they pass with me as readily as national notes, both in heaven and hell.

Mer. Now, gentlemen, I am going to set up life, spirit, gallantry, every thing great, noble, and dashing; the pride of the ball, the assembly, and the fair sex; call him buck, or blood, or any thing you please. *Bid.* Pray,

Sir, what good qualities have you?

Buck. Good qualities, Sir? Do you suspect me of any bad? Zounds, Sir,

you want to insult me. Take care Sir, 'twas only yesterday I called a gentleman out because he said the earth was round, while I swore it was a pyramid.

Bid. I beg pardon, I merely want to know what I have before I purchase.

Buck. Look here Sir, did you ever see so fine a leg and thigh in your life? Look how neat that pantaloons sits to my figure? There's style for you; I'm the lad for the ladies, damme.

Bid. What is your employment? *Buck.*

O you hottentot! employment for a gentleman of my blood and spirit!

I have no employment; I scorn employment. *Bid.* Then how do you spend your time?

Buck. my chief business, Sir, is attending the ladies. I am to be found at all places of fashionable resort; at balls, assemblies, operas, theatres, taverns, &c. &c. and sometimes even at that stupid place church, if it happen to be the ton.

Bid. From your appearance I should suppose you spent a great deal of money. *Buck.* O lord no, I am an economist, I must to be sure appear like

other people. I get a new suit of clothes only once or twice a month;

I keep a curricle and a few blood horses, a pack of hounds and four or

five fine hunters; I spend 50 or £60 now and then at an entertainment, and

lose sometimes a hundred or two at dice or billiards; I visit Bath, Brighton,

or Harrowgate, by a time, or take a trip to London sometimes; but all that costs only a thousand or two. I

keep a brace of fine girls when I can get them, and they to be sure cost me something; but d—n my

blood, to be out of the fashion, I would as soon be out of the world. *Bid.*

Now where do you find money to meet all your expenses? *Buck.* O you

old ass! a gentleman of my figure think about money! Why you block-

head when that old screw my father won't remit me, I live by my ways

and my means, and damme me if ever I want a fine girl or a bottle of wine.

Bid. I won't have him at any money. *Buck.* Not have me! you old con-

undrum! you never saw the like of me in your life. *Bid.* Truly I never did.

Buck. I drive in nicer style than any buck in London. I knocked up four

horses at the last steeple chase; I am fully acquainted with all the fash-

ions; in short I am caressed by all the men, and adored by all the ladies.

Bid. I would not take him, were I to get him for nothing. *Mer.*

Does any other bidder offer himself?

2d Bid. Would he answer to be my groom, or to attend at table? I see

his boots are finely varnished. Perhaps he could clean my shoes!

Mer. I'll not promise for him. Take him at what you think he is worth.

Bid. I'll give five tenpennies for him.

Mer. Take him, I am glad to get quit of him, for he has disturbed us all morning, swearing and talking like a fool. His tongue has not been at rest five minutes, these two hours,umbling out nonsense in heaps, and abusing every body about him—Gentlemen, I am now going to give you a treat. Here is a precious article, indeed; nothing less I assure you, than the celebrated Mrs. Mary Anne Clarke. A.Z.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the Repository of Theology and General Literature for the last month, I find the following just censure on Thomas Clarkson, for his want of discrimination of character, when, in his History of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, he equally praises Fox and Pitt for the parts they respectively took in that business. The remarks are so congenial with my own, on reading that generally interesting work, that I beg permission for their insertion in your next number. The fineness of the one Statesman forms a contrast with the decided measures of the other. Nor should praise be withheld from Lord Grenville, whose last public act in office, was procuring the royal assent to the act which stamped this nefarious trade with legislative reprobation. This one circumstance shows how legislative assemblies in the present day are influenced, and how obsequious they are to the nod of the minister for the time being. The reason for abolishing this trade in 1791 and 1792 were as forcible, as in 1806; but in the former years truth and justice pleaded in vain; and in 1806 the just and necessary measure was carried, because Fox and Grenville, being ministers, were honest men.

A READER.

“Mr. Pitt was a speech maker, and could declaim as well upon the enormities of the Slave-trade, as upon the horrors of Jacobinism. His eloquence in behalf of the Africans, in the years 1790 and 1792, captivated both his friends and enemies. But why, it may be asked, did he not use his almost irresistible influence to abolish the evil

he so pathetically deplored? Was he strong only on the side of tyranny and aggression? It must be a subject of melancholy reflection to his admirers to think, that after all his declarations and protestations, he permitted the British slave trade to increase from an importation of 25,000 to an importation of 57,000 negroes in two years, ending 1798, by the capture of the Dutch and other settlements. If he had issued in 1797 the order of council 1805, above 30,000 negroes per annum would have been saved! What Mr. Pitt, who was prime minister of this country, with boundless power, for twenty years, could not, or would not effect, was accomplished by the Fox and Grenville ministry, which existed not so many months. But with them the matter was taken up on principle, and they staked their very being upon it. One of their first measures was to restrict the trade; they went on impairing it by degrees, and pledging the house, and preparing the country for its annihilation; and their very last act, was the glorious bill which wiped away this disgraceful traffic. And have they to divide the honour of this benevolent work with their predecessors, who, while they talked about it, did nothing to forward it! Let Mr. Clarkson answer this question, who with an impropriety mortifying, and injustice most shameful, dedicates his admirable “History of the Abolition,” equally to the names of Pitt and Fox. Mr. Fox’s friends disclaim the compliment, and the dedication will ever be an eye-sore in a work, which in other respects, benevolence would contemplate with unalloyed pleasure.”

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE ANCIENT MUSIC OF IRELAND ADAPTED TO THE PIANO FORTE.

MR. BUNTING is at present in London superintending this long expected collection, which is now in the Press, and will shortly be published with the highest embellishment of London Engravings. As the scope of this laborious undertaking, to which Mr. Bunting has devoted at least seventeen years, may not be known

to some of your readers, the following account of it will be acceptable.

A SUBSCRIBER.

IT is to comprehend, as nearly as practicable, the entire body of the ancient Music of this country; the whole making an aggregate of about an hundred and fifty melodies.

A number of original songs will be added, in their native language and character, with prose translations; and for several of the finest airs, arranged for the voice with an instrumental accompaniment, English words are prepared by Thomas Campbell, Esq. and others of acknowledged talents.

It will contain an old Irish lesson and prelude, played in this kingdom for several generations, and latterly, by DENNIS HEMPSEN, the Harper of Magilligan, from whom it was taken down shortly before his decease: also two celebrated *Irish airs*, with their ancient *variations*, as practised on the Harp for many years.

With these are to be given, an original melody, or recitative, which the compiler had the fortune to discover, as sung in artless strains by the aborigines of different parts of Ireland, to the OSSIANIC lamentation of the celebrated *Deirdre* (*Deirdre*) for the sons of *Uisneach* (*Uisneach*) together with a very ancient Highland air, a remnant of the music to which similar poems have been sung.

The music will be accompanied by an extensive Memoir on the Harp, of ancient and modern times. In this various original matter will be found on a subject at once curious and little explored—Particularly, the distinctive difference between the music of Ireland and that of neighbouring countries. An account of the principles upon which the Irish Harp is tuned and played—of a multiplicity of technical terms in the Irish language, respecting the instrument; its proportions, and measurements, as well as the alterations it has undergone from the Saxon times to the present—The affinity of the present Harp to still more ancient instruments will be traced, particularly to the harp of Egyptian Thebes. A comparative view is taken of the principal stringed instruments of antiquity; and an inquiry into the Highland

and Lowland music of Scotland; with an historical account of the Bagpipe.

The predominant object throughout has been to present the music, *unadulterated*, for which this island was celebrated from remote ages, and which occasioned the Harp to be quartered in her arms. It has fallen to the lot of the Compiler to rescue many airs, that in their native simplicity, lead directly to the heart, when they were on the point of being lost for ever. The only repositories of them some years ago have paid the debt of nature, since the commencement of this undertaking, leaving hardly a successor in their art.

From this imperfect abstract of a plan to which the Compiler has devoted so great a portion of his life, it will appear that his aim has been to gratify the curiosity of the Antiquarian, as well as to entertain the lover of music.

The whole is to be contained in two volumes folio, and an octavo volume, with elegant engravings to elucidate different parts of the subject. The music and engravings to be produced in the best style of the London Press.

The work is to be adorned by a drawing of the most beautiful Harp that has ever been discovered in Ireland; greatly superior in construction and ornament, to that preserved in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, as the Harp of an ancient Irish monarch. Plate II. A representation of the ancient Irish Harp, played by Dennis Hempsen, of whom an accurate portrait was taken sometime before his death. Plate III. is to contain drawings of the stringed instruments of antiquity, for the purpose of comparing and appreciating the principles of their construction with those of the instrument under review. Plate IV. will exhibit diagrams of the musical instruments of the middle ages and more modern periods.

A work on such a subject, so difficult and expensive in execution, conducted by a person of whose musical attainments there is only one opinion, has high demands on the patronage of every gentleman and scholar, independently of every musical practitioner. The public taste, and

still more the reverence of every Irishman for the most ancient reliques of his country, are in some degree involved. These remains of other times almost any where else, would not to this day have remained in obscurity.

It will therefore give satisfaction to announce that the work has excited a strong interest throughout the united kingdom, particularly in Great Britain, where the subscription is receiving warm encouragement.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

AS the drill culture of Potatoes has for several years past been gaining ground in this country, and the Landholders are now generally convinced of its superiority over the lazy-bed mode, both as to produce and expense, I was surprized to see in No. 6, of the Magazine, a statement said to be taken from Rawson's Survey of Kildare, representing the lazy-bed way as most profitable.

I have looked into the extract as it is given in the Magazine for September, and find the statement is fairly made on one acre in the drill or rather bank mode, and one acre in the lazy-bed way; in the first there appears a profit of £21 1 1, and in the latter only £1 6 8. How the Gentleman from Castle-Upton could make such a mistake as to imagine that the last statement was for eight acres, when the author of the work expressly says he has given it for one acre only, I am at a loss to conjecture. Surely no person who is acquainted with the expense of planting Potatoes with the spade, could think that eight acres could be done in that way, at the small expense of £2 3 4 (very little more than five shillings per acre) or that the seed used would amount to no more than £2 0 0 (not five bushels to the acre). The only article of expense that seems extravagant is the dung—320 loads to an acre is certainly a greater quantity than we are in the habit of applying in this country, but if only one half of the dung was to be taken into the statement, it would still leave a balance of £12 7 9 in favour of the bank culture, a sum sufficiently great to induce any farmer to give it a fair trial.

BELFAST MAG. NO. VIII.

As to the advice given the Editor of rejecting all anonymous communications, he will know what value to set upon it. If Magazines and such other periodical works in this country, at least, were to receive nothing but what had signatures, I am afraid their numbers would be very scantily supplied with materials for the instruction or amusement of the public.

I have always thought that the value of such communications ought to be estimated by the importance of the subject and the soundness of the reasoning employed, and not the name of the author.

The Farmer's Magazine, published in Edinburgh, is principally composed of anonymous pieces, and yet it is held in great estimation, and is judged to have materially served the cause of Agriculture; having such a precedent I must beg leave to subscribe myself

March 1, 1809.

A FARMER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
I LATELY observed a proposal, made by a Correspondent to one of the London Magazines, that all persons who were acquainted with successful cases of the application of any of the popular remedies used through the country, should make them known to the public, with the proper vouchers through the medium of some of the periodical publications: I also find that it has been adopted and acted upon, and that several cases of common remedies have been already published. Such a plan I think would be equally useful here, and therefore I take the liberty of recommending to you, to make known your wish to receive communications of this nature. I would also go farther, and invite communications not only of cases in which they have succeeded, but also where they have failed. The adage, *Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum*, is no where so applicable as in the case of experimental medicine, in which the failure or success of a remedy depends as much on the mode and circumstances of the application as its intrinsic qualities. If you accede to this hint, I doubt not, but that it will be the means of furnishing the public with some new and interesting

information on a subject on which all are concerned, the preservation and restoration of health. I am Sir
Yours, OBSOLETUS.

March 1st, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
PERMIT me to add a few cursory observations to an interesting Paper in your last Month's Magazine, on that staple article of the Irish export trade, butter. I have no doubt of the success which would attend a trial of Dr. Anderson's receipt, and I truly hope that it may become general. The ordinary process at present in use in this country, in making butter, is, after the parts which constitute that delightful aliment have been separated from the milk, to wash the mass well in cold water, and when the due quantity of salt is worked into it, lay it by for use. I have lately (indeed by accident) been informed of another method which is practised in some parts of the counties of Wexford, and Carlow, and I hear has been attended with considerable success.

The manner is very simple, and it strikes me too as extremely probable that it was the ancient way of treating it. The butter, on taking it out of the churn, is laid on a flat stone or marble slab, and worked or beat very well until the whole of the milk is supposed to have escaped; the salt is then used and the butter is fit for immediate use or keeping, and if I am correctly informed, resists rancidity much longer than when worked in the usual way with water. Perhaps the water being a much finer fluid, penetrating into the porous parts of the butter, and it being difficult to expel it altogether, causes the disagreeable effect mentioned, but this is mere speculation.

The county Carlow butter has long been esteemed in the sister country, and bears a much higher price in its metropolis than any other Irish, the Cork rose not excepted, and such is the opinion that they entertain of its peculiar goodness, and the high fame it has acquired, that the Merchants in the neighbouring seaports find it their interest to brand all their prime butter casks with the name, the consequence is that more is sold

in London as Carlow, than is made in the county.

The great and almost only cause of the indifferent quality of a large portion of this country butter is, I am persuaded, owing to the poverty of the dairy-men. Often have I entered the peasant's wretched cabin, and beheld the children, pigs, poultry, &c. scrambling promiscuously on the ground, the family's lowly bed of straw in one corner, while their vessels of milk placed on a few sticks set up in the ground, and a cross one or two at the top, lay in another, and the house so filled with smoke as almost to threaten suffocation.

The few cows also which they possess are generally so very limited, that to have a sufficient quantity of cream for a churning, they hold it over so long, and the wooden keaves, being I am afraid seldom well scalded, it acquires in addition to the smoky, a scarcely less disagreeable taste.

I must mention a practice resorted to here by the butter merchants, to prevent the market prices rising too rapidly; it cannot be condemned too severely. I am not quite certain as to its being confined to this place alone, but I trust it is the case.

A bribe, or *whisper* as it is called, of so much a cask, is given; it generally runs from 6 to 12s. and the seller of the butter, whether the cask be large or otherwise, obtains it.

This as I before mentioned, keeps down the *nominal* price here, and the *real* one in the country towns, that look to this place, as a mart for their butter. But the practice leaves such a glaring temptation open to the farmer's sons, or servants, as the *whisper* is so easily reduced, not taking to account (as I imagine) the evident injustice of the custom, that it ought to be discouraged as much as possible.

RECLUSE.

Waterford, March 19, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE CHARACTER OF THE FRENCH LADIES...
BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WHO LIVED IN FRANCE SEVERAL YEARS, AND ON WHOSE ARM THE EMPRESS HERSELF SOMETIMES DESIGNED TO LEAN.

WELL did Sterne say, that nothing here was *salique* but the government, for the Ladies of France to

indemnify themselves for this exclusion from the Throne, have seized on the most despotic power, and rule over their subjects with absolute sway.

A pretty woman in France is a sovereign prince who knows neither resistance nor controul. She is an ambitious potentate, that makes conquests and cedes them, and will exchange a subject as a province. In the midst of her circle she is a law-giver, and her decrees, like the proclamations of King Henry the Eighth, have the full force of acts of parliament. At her toilet she holds her levee—in her *boudoir* she gives private audience, and in her bed she receives her ministers. She has favourites and officers of state, and confirms her honours with a kiss of her hand. Her train is filled with rival courtiers and zealous expectants, whom she keeps in peace and civility by her sovereign authority. Her forces, like her ways and means, are inexhaustible. She pays her servants with a smile, and subdues her enemies with a frown. She makes war with the artillery of her eyes, and peace she seals with the impression of her lips. Rebels and malecontents she punishes with exile or death as the case may be. She protects learning, science and the arts. Authors submit their works to her, and artists implore her patronage. She receives the homage of the gay, of the grave, of the old, and of the young. The sage, the hero, the wit and the philosopher, all range themselves under her banners and obey her laws. As to her capacities, she is but an elegant little variety of man. Her titles are undisputed. Ask whose house this is—it belongs to *Madame une tale*. Has she a husband? I can't say: I never saw any.

Will you have a more familiar instance? I was sitting at the fire side with my wife—a tradesman brought in a pair of boots—I asked if they were my boots. I do not know, sir,

I believe they are for the husband of Madame. Inquire who is that cavalier. He is of the society of Madame—She is the sun of a sphere, and all her planets and satellites waltz round her—and her voice is the music of the sphere. Taught from her infancy to please, and conscious of her power by its effects, she wears the air of acknowledged superiority and receives man's submission as her due. Yet ever zealous to extend her empire, ever active in maintaining it, she neglects no art, no charm, no seduction. When she moves, it is all grace—when she sings, it is all sentiment—when she looks, it is all expression—when she languishes, it is all softness—when she frolics, it is all riot—when she sighs, it is all tenderness—when she smiles it is all happiness—and when she laughs it is all mirth: She is good-humoured from philosophy, and kind from calculation. Her beauty is her treasure, and she knows that all ill humours impair it, she therefore shuns strong emotions, and becomes upon principle dispassionate and cold, for her ambition is to be adored and not to love—Hold, hold! I hear you exclaim—then she is a coquette! Alack-a-day, my friend, and it is even so.

But let justice ever guide my pen. However coquettish these fascinating beings may be; however generally they may be charged with gallantry, and I am no knight-errant, nor bound to prove the contrary; yet I believe many there are who speak of them unfairly and “fancy raptures that they never knew.” And I think I can assure you that there are in France as affectionate and faithful wives, as tender and attentive mothers, as in any other country of the earth. Such, however are not naturally the first to present themselves to the acquaintance of the stranger or the traveller.

H. W.

--- BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS. ---

AN ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM RATHBONE, OF LIVERPOOL; TAKEN FROM THE ATHENÆUM FOR LAST MONTH.

THE commemoration of departed worth is a debt due no less to the living than to the dead, and it would

be unjust to the present age to suffer the virtues and talents of one of its brightest ornaments, recently withdrawn from it, to pass away without particular notice.

William Rathbone, who died on the

11th day of February, 1809, at his house at Greenbank, near Liverpool, was the son of William Rathbone, a respectable merchant of Liverpool, and one of the religious society of Quakers, from whom he inherited that uprightness of heart and benevolence of character, by which he was himself so eminently distinguished. Although engaged at an early period in active business, which he pursued with strict regularity, and for many years of his life with unremitted industry, he yet found leisure for the cultivation of his mind, in many of the most important branches of human knowledge. Endowed by nature with kind dispositions and an excellent understanding, his great view throughout life was to promote, as far as his situation would permit, the true honour, interests, and happiness of his fellow-creatures; an object which he endeavoured to accomplish, not merely by unceasing works of charity and benevolence, within the sphere of his personal influence, but by a steady, uniform, and unshaken attention to all those great principles of right and justice upon which are founded the security, respectability, and prosperity of the human race.

Throughout the political, moral, and religious storms and commotions which have now for so long a period agitated the civilized world, he was a rock that felt no change. Whenever the rights and welfare of others were in question, whenever oppression was to be withstood, or intolerance opposed, it was unnecessary to ask for his assistance, or to inquire what was his opinion. His hand and his heart, every faculty of his body, and every energy of his mind were ready in the cause. In the year 1792, when the fate of Europe depended upon the turn of the balance; when a wise, temperate and enlightened decision might have preserved the world from unspeakable calamities, and given to this nation the honour of having patronized the cause of rational freedom and of limited monarchy, he was among the first who in his native town of Liverpool endeavoured to impress upon the public mind the expediency of avoiding a war with France. At a general meeting of the inhabitants, called by the

mayor in the month of December in that year, his exertions, with those of other friends of liberty and peace, induced the meeting to vote an address to his Majesty, expressive of their gratitude to him for having so long preserved to them the blessings of public tranquillity, and their earnest hope that no circumstances would induce him to implicate his people in affairs foreign to their interests, and fatal to their repose. The question was three times put, and as often carried in favour of the address. The populous town of Manchester followed; a similar address was there proposed and carried; and the example thus begun might have extended still further; but although such was the sense of the majority, yet the same circumstance which has occurred in other places of a riot in favour of the existing administration, took place on this occasion in Liverpool, and the address, although voted by the meeting, and left for the signature of the inhabitants at the town hall, was torn in pieces by a lawless mob, and scattered through the streets. How fully the apprehensions which were then expressed of the consequences that must ensue from involving the country in a war have since been realized, the present situation of the manufacturing and commercial part of this country, and the thousands of industrious labourers who are thus deprived of the means of subsistence for themselves and families, but too fatally show. Another meeting of the inhabitants was sometime afterwards called by the Mayor, in one of the squares of the town, in order to consider on the propriety of addressing his Majesty to dismiss Mr. Pitt and his colleagues from his confidence and councils; when upon a motion made to that effect by a very respectable and independent individual, Mr. Rathbone endeavoured to address the meeting in its support; but such was the dread which the partizans of administration entertained of his talents and his eloquence, that they employed a great number of persons to prevent, by noise and clamour, his being heard. After repeated attempts he was obliged to desist, and the Mayor declared that he could not determine whether the motion was carried or not, and dis-

missed the meeting without a decision.

The monopoly granted to the East India Company, and the exclusion of British subjects from a lucrative trade, to which even foreign nations were admitted, were subjects which had long engaged his particular attention. In the year 1792 he had taken an active part at a meeting of the inhabitants of Liverpool, when certain resolutions were entered into, expressive of their sense of the injuries which the country suffered by such monopoly. These resolutions drawn up by one of his intimate friends, who is now no more, but whose character is well known to the public, by his literary and scientific acquirements, are deserving of notice for their assertion of general principles, and the enlightened maxims of commercial policy which they inculcate. The inefficacy of this effort did not prevent Mr. Rathbone from making another attempt to call the public attention to this momentous subject. In the course of the year 1807 a meeting of the inhabitants of Liverpool was held in the town-hall, at which he presided, when he laid before them a full exposition of the affairs of the East India Company, and proposed that addresses against the new loans required by them, should be presented to both Houses of Parliament, which were accordingly carried at a most numerous meeting; one person only holding up his hand against it, a circumstance which drew upon him the notice and disapprobation of the assembly; but which Mr. Rathbone no sooner perceived than with that kindness and promptitude which were habitual to him, he exclaimed, "You are right, Sir, in thus avowing your opinion; minorities are often virtuous."

One of the latest efforts of this champion of peace and good will on earth, was to remove the obstacles which have unfortunately prevented the usual intercourse between this country and America, a subject in which, from the nature of his commercial concerns, as being extensively engaged in that trade, he was most peculiarly interested; but which he considered in a public view, as it regarded the happiness of two countries formed to be of the

greatest service to each other in their commercial relations; no man living being more free than he was from the narrow views of selfish advantage and private interest. In a declining state of health he offered himself to an examination on this subject, and accordingly delivered his evidence at the bar of both Houses of Parliament; but although the information there given by himself and others, proved to the satisfaction of all impartial persons, the inefficacy of the measures adopted by the Orders in Council, either to counteract the effects of the embargo, or to promote the interests of this country; and although the facts there proved were enforced by the eloquence of many members of the greatest respectability and talents, yet no beneficial effects whatever were produced, and the Orders in Council yet remain, to second the views of our enemies, and to starve our own country-men.

To such a mind as that of Mr. Rathbone it was impossible that the great question of the Slave trade, which so long agitated the kingdom, could be a subject of indifference. On this question his excellent father had taken an active part, as may be seen by Mr. Clarkson's History of the Abolition; but the efforts of the late Mr. Rathbone were not less decisive or less effectual, and it is to be attributed in no small degree to his bold and persevering opposition to it, and to the strong and impressive manner in which his opinions were avowed, that even in the town of Liverpool, the very place which was the centre of that trade, a powerful body was raised against it, and the proper sentiments of natural right and justice instilled into the public mind. That he lived to see, independently of the immediate benefits to which it gave rise, it afforded him reason to hope that there was in this country a fund of integrity, humanity, and good sense, which under all emergencies would be found adequate to its preservation.

Nor did he view with indifference the municipal concerns of the town in which he resided. For a long series of years a select body of the corporators have taken the administration of the affairs of the town into their own hands, excluding therefrom the bur-

gesses at large, and under the name of a common council have elected their own members, and claimed the right of making bye-laws for the government of the town. These pretensions were opposed as inconsistent with the existing charters, by a great number of the freemen, and even by some respectable members of the select body, and Mr. Rathbone took a conspicuous part in the assertion of the rights of his fellow burgesses. A voluntary subscription was entered into; the questions were put into a course of judicial proceeding, and that respecting the right of making bye-laws was tried at Lancaster, and a verdict given in favour of the burgesses at large. On a motion in the Court of King's Bench a new trial was directed, and the cause went again before a jury, who returned a similar verdict to their predecessors.

The Court of King's Bench was again moved, and a third trial was ordered, but the strong indications thus given that the claims of the burgesses would not ultimately prevail, induced them to relinquish the contest, and the select body still continues to exercise the complete direction of the concerns and finances of the town. These local contests occurred at a period when Mr. Rathbone was in the full vigour of his powers. At the numerous assemblies held on these occasions, he frequently addressed the freemen of the town, and the torrent of his eloquence was irresistible. The force of his arguments, the clearness of his demonstration, and the urbanity of his manner overpowered all resistance, and enthralled all hearts; and the applauses he received whenever he spoke were as involuntary as they were sincere.

Mr. Rathbone had been strictly educated in the religious profession of which his parents were members, to which he had himself invariably adhered, notwithstanding an extensive and intimate intercourse of friendship with many persons of different religious persuasions, and had evinced himself an active and useful member of their society; but of late years, some transactions took place in their proceedings in Ireland, which he conceived to be inconsistent with

that degree of religious toleration, and that right of private judgment in religious matters, on which alone any dissent from pre-existing establishments can be rationally defended. In the course of these proceedings it appeared that some difference of opinion had arisen amongst the members of the society, as well on points of doctrine as of principle; in consequence of which a considerable number of them had been excluded. Under these circumstances, which tended not only to diminish the numbers of the society, but to bring it into disrepute, especially as those separating from it were persons of respectable character and religious dispositions, Mr. Rathbone thought that by a clear statement of the transactions which had taken place, and a calm, temperate, and impartial comment upon them, it might be possible to heal the breach. But in taking upon himself this task, he had yet higher views, and whilst he endeavoured to show forth, by argument and authority, *the real value of ceremonial forms and observances*, he determined to assert to the utmost of his power the *sacred* right of every individual to judge for himself in religious matters, and the *important duty* of exercising this right without fear of temporal consequences. His strong judgment and enlightened mind had indeed convinced him of the great and most important truth, that until there be a perfect and acknowledged freedom of opinion on religious subjects, till every one can allow his neighbour to judge and to act in his spiritual concerns by the dictates of his own understanding, without any diminution of kindness and good will towards him on account of his dissent, the causes of alienation and enmity can never be removed, nor the principles of Christianity ever be established. Under these impressions, he published in the year 1804, *A Narration of Events that have lately taken place in Ireland among the Society called Quakers*. In the compilation of this work he paid the most scrupulous attention to the authenticity of the facts which he recorded; accompanying them with observations which sufficiently display the liberality of his sentiments and

the benevolence of his heart. To revive this subject is as foreign to the purpose of the author of these remarks, as it would be unsuitable to that of the present publication; but it would be unjust to the character of Mr. Rathbone to pass it over, without presenting to the reader, in his own words, his general view of the nature of true religious *unity*, which may be sufficiently collected from the following passage in that work:

"Instances of cordial and long cemented friendship, between liberal and virtuous minds, who neither hold *similar opinions*, nor practise *similar forms* in matters of religion, are sufficiently frequent to show, that *unity* in forms and opinions, is by no means essential to that bond of union. The nature of *wisdom and folly, truth and falsehood, virtue and vice*, are indeed irreconcilably opposed to each other; and the necessary result is, that among their respective votaries, whether of *the same or of different societies, unity must be unknown*. But among those, who are happily habituated to regard the *GLORY of God*, and the *GOOD of MANKIND*, as the predominant objects of their pursuit, is it not obvious that there can be no differences about forms and opinions, respecting which they are likely to feel, or would be justified in feeling great anxiety, on behalf of each other? There is indeed *one point*, beyond all others pre-eminent in importance, concerning which their labours and their prayers for each other, can never be unnecessary or unseasonable; and this is *unity* in that sentiment which represents *the favour of our merciful Creator*, and an *increasing participation of his divine nature, through all the successive periods of eternal existence, by means of a progressive improvement in intellect and virtue*, as objects infinitely more momentous than any which this world can present."

This publication was not however attended with the beneficial consequences which its benevolent author wished. Instead of adopting the ideas which he had endeavoured to inculcate, the Society considered the work as derogatory to the character and injurious to the interests of their body, and proceedings were had upon it,

which terminated in his disunion from them as a religious community. These proceedings were afterwards published by Mr. Rathbone, under the title of "*A Memoir of the Proceedings of the Society called Quakers, &c.*" In this work is contained his defence, as transmitted to the society prior to his expulsion, in which he has ably vindicated his own opinions and conduct; but rather with a view to justify himself in the judgment of the candid and impartial of all sects, than with that of averting the disunion with which he was threatened. In fact the separation was become as necessary to him, as to the society; and as he could not prevail upon its members to approve of his sentiments and adopt his recommendations, he felt no regret, except what arose from his unalterable regard and friendship for the individuals of that body, at being deprived of all further connection with them.

It will perhaps be supposed that in times like the present, the political discussion in which Mr. Rathbone had been engaged, would excite no small share of resentment in those whose opinions and conduct he opposed. But whatever might be the animosity thus produced in the minds of others, it is certain that they occasioned no feelings of personal hostility and resentment in his own.—On the contrary, the philanthropy of his character induced him to feel a general affection for all mankind, and the generosity of his disposition led him to compensate those with whom he differed in opinion, for the opposition shown to them by an additional share of kindness and respect. In asserting his own sentiments he always did justice to the motives of those from whom he differed, and, as he was not conscious of, so he never expressed those angry feelings, and that vindictive spirit which characterize the contests of the present day, whether literary, political, or religious. The same indulgence and toleration which were habitual to him, he wished also to see displayed in the conduct of his friends; and an ungenerous remark or an illiberal censure, even on an avowed adversary, never passed without his animadversions and reproof. He well

knew that virtue and benevolence are not confined to one class of political opinions, or to the precincts of any one religious sect; and when the indications of these appeared, he was ever eager to do them justice. That this temper and conduct smothered many of the asperities to which the inflexible assertion of his own principles gave rise, cannot be doubted; and he will long continue to be held in affectionate remembrance by many, who, whilst they differed with him on essential points of belief and conduct, yet loved and venerated the man. If amongst those harsher spirits, who, convinced of their own infallibility, can make no allowance for the dissent of other, there were some who considered his principles with abhorrence, and his talents with dread, their violence or injustice produced upon his calm and dignified mind no re-action of a similar nature; insomuch that few persons have so uniformly practised throughout life that great Christian maxim, which if adhered to by others in an equal degree, would lay the basis of human happiness, "*To love your enemies; to bless those that curse you; and to pray for those who despitefully use you, and persecute you.*"

The character and conduct of this distinguished friend of liberty, and humanity, and peace, and the direction which he gave to his talents, were such as to have left, on his own account, no cause of regret amongst his surviving friends. His mission is perfected, and from a life of care and anxiety, attended with no common share of suffering from bodily indisposition, he is gone to receive the reward of his labours. But those to whom he was more intimately known will find it difficult to suppress a sentiment of sorrow and disappointment, that the great endowments of his mind, and the benevolent dictates of his heart, had not an opportunity of exerting themselves on a still wider scale. Had he, whilst in the vigour of his powers, been called to take an active part in the general and national concerns, it is impossible to say what might not have been effected by his fervid eloquence, his undaunted firmness, and his earnest desire to promote the general happiness. But these regrets are vain and fruitless. A cold, narrow,

and a short-sighted policy has infused itself throughout the country. A spirit of hatred, of retaliation, and of revenge, has superseded the common feelings of humanity, and too often broken down the boundaries of right and justice; and the effects of these under the wise constitution of the moral world, have already been severely visited upon ourselves. These evils were beyond his power to remedy, and a apprehension of that decline of public virtue, and that progress of corruption which must finally end in disgrace and ruin, occasioned him many moments of solicitude and regret.

True excellence is always the more highly esteemed as it is the more nearly approached, and the more intimately known; and notwithstanding the respect paid to his acknowledged merits in public life, it was in the social circle, and in the society of his family and friends, that his character appeared in its most favourable aspect. On these occasions it was impossible not to be struck with the soul of benevolence which disclosed itself in every word and look, and with that simplicity of manner, which indicated that he had not a thought to conceal. As his views were extensive, and his experience considerable so the tenor of his conversation was always instructive, and it may more truly be said of him, that a word scarcely ever escaped his lips that was not directed to some benevolent purpose, to impart pleasure, to communicate knowledge, or to do good. His person and appearance were strikingly impressive, and conciliated attachment, whilst they inspired respect. His manner was peculiarly natural and engaging, and throughout his life, course, the aptitude of his illustration and the playfulness of his fancy always confined within the strict bounds of propriety and decorum, never failed to delight his hearers.

For a long time the declining state of Mr. Rathbone's health had caused the most serious apprehensions to his friends; but a few months since, his complaints assumed a more alarming form, and he had to struggle with sufferings beyond what generally fall to the lot of humanity. If there be a spectacle on earth more peculiarly deserving of admiration than any other

it is the contemplation of a firm and a virtuous mind, rising superior to corporeal sufferings, and shining forth in all its lustre amidst the ruins of its earthly frame. In the last period of the life of Mr. Rathbone, this spectacle was most eminently displayed. The moments that could be spared from actual suffering, were assiduously devoted to the consolation of his affectionate family, and the society of his friends, with whom he conversed on his approaching death, not only with fortitude, but with cheerfulness. The faculties of his mind were unimpaired to the last moment, when without a struggle he resigned his spirit into the hands of his Creator.

"Thrice happy! who the blameless road
along,
Of honest praise, hath reach'd the vale
of death!
Around him, like ministrant cherubs
throng,
His better actions; to the parting
breath,

Singing their blessed requiems; he the
while,

Gently reposing on some friendly
breast,

Breathes out his benisons; then with a
smile

Of soft complacence lays him down to
rest,

Calm as the slumbering infant."

His remains were attended to the grave in the burial ground of the Quaker's Society, in Liverpool, by a very large concourse of his friends of all ranks, and of various religious denominations, who voluntarily assembled to pay the last tribute to his virtues, and by whom he will long be held in affectionate remembrance.

Mr. Rathbone married in the year 1786, the only daughter of Mr. Richard Reynolds, late of Colebrook Dale, but now of Bristol, who has survived him, and by whom he has left four sons and a daughter to profit by his example, and to revere his memory.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

Account of a Patent granted to Zachariah Barratt (Croydon) for a Machine for washing Linen, &c. to which may be attached a contrivance for pressing the water from them, instead of wringing them.

THE machine consists of a wooden trough, of a convenient size for one person to stand at, with an inclined bottom, the inside surface is made uneven, by grooves, or projections, about an inch asunder. The ribs of the grooves are hollowed, so as to give them a wavy appearance, and into the hollows may be introduced small pieces of buff or other elastic substance which in the operation of washing are supposed to act in a similar manner to the human fingers. A hole is made in the bottom of the trough to let off the suds when done with. On the inside of the trough, and parallel with its ends, a roller is fixed on centres, covered with cork, leather or other soft substance, to prevent noise in the op-

eration of washing, which operation is performed by a person pressing the clothes in the trough, with a loose board, called an agitator, the under side of which is supported by, and moves on the roller above-mentioned. This agitator is constructed of one or more pieces of boards, two feet six inches long, framed together so as to form a flat surface, nearly of the width of the interior, having two holes or spaces cut out in the upper end, for the operator's hands. The lower end, about an inch high is covered with leather, cork or other fit elastic soft material with one or two pieces projecting at the bottom, similar to those in the hollow parts of the grooves, in the inside of the trough. Across the top of the trough is a strong bar or shelf of wood, on which may be placed an apparatus of any proper construction for pressing out the water, to be used as a substitute for wringing: this apparatus is a box, or tube, into which the wet things may be put,

cc

and the water pressed out by a piece of wood, of the size nearly of the interior of the box, attached to the end of a screw fixed in a frame. A lever or other means of creating a pressure, may be adopted, but if a screw is used, it should be encircled with cylinder of leather, to keep it free from wet, which would render its action stiff and unpleasant.

The process for dying Nankeen Colour....By Richard Brewer.

Mix as much sheep's dung in clear water as will make it appear of the colour of grass, and dissolve in clear water one pound of best white soap, for every ten pounds of cotton-yarn, or in that proportion for a greater or lesser quantity.

Observe: the tubs, boards, and poles, that are used in the following operations, must be made of deal; the boiling pan of either iron or copper.

*First operation....*Pour the soap liquor prepared as above into the boiling pan; strain the dung liquor through a sieve; add as much thereof to the soap liquor in the pan as will be sufficient to boil the yarn, intended to be dyed, for five hours. When the liquors are well mixed in the pan, enter the yarn, light the fire under the pan, and bring the liquor to boil in about two hours, observing to increase the heat regularly during that period. Continue it boiling for three hours, then take the yarn out of the pan, wash it, wring it, and hang it in a shed on poles to dry. When dry, take it into a stove or other room where there is a fire; let it hang there until it be thoroughly dry.

N. B. The cotton yarn, when in the shed, should not be exposed either to the rain or sun; if it is, it will be unequally coloured, when dyed.

*Second operation....*In this operation use only one half of the soap, that was used in the last, and as much dung liquor (strained as before directed) as will be sufficient to cover the cotton yarn, when in the pan, about two inches. When these liquors are well mixed in the pan, enter the yarn, light the fire, and bring the liquor to boil in about one hour; then take the yarn out, wring it without

washing, and hang it to dry as in the former operation.

*Third operation....*This operation the same as the second in every respect.

*Fourth operation....*For every ten pounds of yarn make a clear lye from half a pound of pot or pearl ashes. Pour the lye into the boiling pan, and add as much clear water as will be sufficient to boil the yarn for two hours; then enter the yarn, light the fire, and bring it to boil in about an hour. Continue it boiling about an hour, then take the yarn out, wash it very well in clear water, wring it, and hang it to dry as in former operations.

N. B. This operation is to cleanse the yarn from any oleaginous matter, that may remain in it after boiling in the soap and dung liquors.

*Fifth operation....*To every gallon of iron liquor* add half a pound of ruddle or red chalk (the last the best) well pulverized.

Mix them well together, and let the liquor stand four hours, in order that the heavy particles may subside; then pour the clear liquor into the boiling pan, and bring it to such a degree of heat as a person can well bear his hand in it; divide the yarn into small parcels, about five hanks in each; soak each parcel or handful very well in the above liquor, wring it, and lay it down on a clean deal board. When all the yarn is handed through the liquor, the last handful must be taken up and soaked in the liquor a second time, and every other handful in succession till the whole is gone through; then lay the yarn down in a tub, wherein there must be put a sufficient quantity of lye made from pot or pearl ashes, as will cover it about six inches. Let it lie in this state about two hours, then hand it over in the lye, wring it, and lay it down on a clear board. If it does not appear sufficiently deep in colour, this operation must be repeated till it has acquired a sufficient degree of darkness of colour; this done, it must be hung to dry as in former operations.

* Iron liquor is what the linen printers use.

N. B. Any degree of red or yellow hue may be given to the yarn by increasing or diminishing the quantity of ruddle or red chalk.

*Sixth operation....*For every ten pounds of yarn make a lye from half a pound of pot or pearl ashes; pour the clear lye into the boiling pan; add a sufficient quantity of water thereto, that will cover the yarn about four inches; light the fire, and enter the yarn, when the liquor is a little warm; observe to keep it constantly under the liquor for two hours; increase the heat regularly till it come to a scald; then take the yarn out, wash it, and hang it to dry as in former operations.

*Seventh operation....*Make a sour liquor of oil of vitriol and water; the degree of acidity may be a little less than the juice of lemons; lay the yarn in it for about an hour, then take it out, wash it very well and wring it; give it a second washing and wringing, and lay it on a board.

N. B. This operation is to dissolve the metallic particles, and remove the ferruginous matter, that remains on the surface of the thread after the fifth operation.

*Eighth operation....*For every ten pounds of yarn dissolve one pound of best white soap in clear water, and add as much water to this liquor in your boiling pan as will be sufficient to boil the yarn for two hours. When these liquors are well mixed, light the fire, enter the yarn, and bring the liquor to boil in about an hour; Continue it boiling slowly an hour; take it out, wash it in clear water very well, and hang it to dry as in former operations; when dry, it is ready for the weaver.

N. B. It appears to me from experiments, that I have made, that less than four operations in the preparation of the yarn will not be sufficient to cleanse the pores of the fibres of the cotton, and render the colour permanent. *Trans. Dub. Soc.*

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

THE CLERICAL CHARACTER IN AMERICA.

A WRITER of celebrity who published at New York in 1807, describing the manners and dress of the Clergy of that country, uses the following characteristic expressions.

There is not a Clergyman in New-York of any description, nor as far as I can learn, in all America, that can lead a concert, or play upon the fiddle, or that dances, or manages an assembly, or gets drunk, or rides in at the death of a fox, or that wears buck-skin breeches, or a ruffled shirt, or keeps a mistress: all they do is to marry the young people, christen their children, visit the sick, comfort the afflicted, go to church, preach twice or thrice on a Sunday, teach the living how to live, and the dying how to die; they are pure in their lives, uncorruptible in their morals, and preach universal love and toleration; and what is more unaccountable, they have no tythes, and they live in the very midst of their congregations.

THE CONDITION OF AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

A gentleman who had travelled through many of the European nations, found it necessary to cross the Atlantic in 1806. Arriving at New-York, he expressed a wish to visit the barracks, but to his astonishment he was informed there was no barracks there. That the soldiers lived in their own houses, and slept with their own wives. Nay more, that they possessed counting-houses, clerks, ware-houses, ships, coaches, country seats, and, strange to tell, they had no pay!

HONESTY AT COURT.

Queen Caroline, once pressed the celebrated Dr. Clarke strongly to acquaint her with her faults. After evading this delicate business as long as he could without giving offence, he at length said; "As I am compelled, your Majesty must pardon me for saying that when people come from the country to St. James' chapel, for a sight of the royal family,

not a very edifying example to them, to see your Majesties talking during the whole time of divine service."—The Queen blushed: told the Doctor he was right, and a hearty laugh ensued. "Well Doctor," said she, "now tell me another fault." No, Madam, excuse me; when I see that your Majesty has amended this, it will be time enough to talk of another.

MODERN LATINITY.

About a century and a half ago, when the learned languages constituted an essential part of the education of a gentleman, it was customary to quote the classics on every occasion, but more particularly in public speeches. At such times the Cardinal de Retz had acquired the reputation of quick recollection, and ready application: perceiving on a certain occasion that his hearers expected this favourite ornament of speech, and not remembering a passage exactly to the purpose, he successfully ventured on an extempore effusion. Being told by some persons present that they did not remember the words in any ancient writer, the Cardinal coolly replied, "It is in some part of Cicero, but I cannot exactly point out the place." That could not be bad Latin which passed for the language of Tully.

DAUPHIN CLASSICS.

These valuable editions of the best classics were first undertaken at the suggestion of Huet, Bishop of Arranches, for the instruction of his royal pupil, a son of Louis XIV. and more immediately under the direction of the French prelate Bossue.

Virgil was edited by De la Rue; Horace, Juvenal and Persius, by Desprez; Livy, by Doujat, and Freinshemius; Sallust by Crespin; and Terence, by Nicholas Camus.

Colleson superintended Martial; Claudian was assigned to Piron, and Plautus to De L'Onore; Me. Dacier supervised Florus, Aurelius Victor, and Eutropius; Catullus, Tibullus and Propertius were published by Philip du Bois; Tacitus by Pachona.

DECAYED MEMORY.

Theodore Beza, during the last six

years of his life, lost all recollection of present objects and occurrences, but retained correct early impressions, particularly of literary compositions. Being visited by a friend, he repeatedly forgot what they were talking of, and seeing his old associate about to leave him, with a melancholy conviction that his faculties were irrecoverably impaired, Beza requested him to sit a little longer, and soon after repeated to him a large portion of the Psalms of David in Hebrew, and of the Epistles of St. Paul in Greek.

ANTIEN FREEDOM OF ELECTION.

During the reign of Elizabeth, when to serve in parliament was thought a burthen rather than an honour, the Earl of Leicester addressed the following letter to the Electors of Andover in Hampshire: "Whereas it hath pleased her Majesty to appoint a Parliament to be presently called, and being steward of your town, I make bold to pray that you would give me the nomination of one of your burgesses, and should you wish to avoid the charges and allowance, if you will bestow the nomination of the other also on me, I will thank you for it, appoint a sufficient man, and pay all expenses.

Praying your speedy answer, I bid you right heartily farewell.

Leicester."

CROMWELL.

The following curious character of that sanctified warrior, is translated literally from Dr. Bate's *Elenchus Motuum Nuperorum in Anglia*. "A perfect master of all the arts of dissimulation, who, turning up the whites of his eyes, and seeking the Lord, with pious gestures, will weep, pray and cant most devoutly, till an opportunity offers of giving his dupe a knock down blow under the short ribs."

LOYAL ADDRESSES.

Richard Cromwell carefully preserved to the day of his death, two large trunks full of addresses presented to him when Protector, a short time only before he was deposed; these from the customary expressions used in such compositions, he called *the lives and fortunes of the people of England*.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

TANZAS ON THE RECOVERY OF SIGHT;

ADDRESSED TO MR. B. GIBSON, SURGEON OF
MANCHESTER.

BY EDWARD RUSHTON, LIVERPOOL.

OH! Gibson, ere those orbs of thine
Received the sun's resplendent light,
A far off regions these of mine,
With many a pang, were clos'd in night:
Tud in this soul-subduing plight,
Forlorn I reach'd my native shore,
When some, extoll'd for talent bright,
Believed my days of vision o'er.

From men of skill on Mersey's Strand,
Whose fam'd solution nought avail'd,
To men of skill throughout the land,
I pass'd; but every effort fail'd.
Time paced along, and now assail'd
By ills that oft on blindness wait,
I felt, yet neither crouch'd nor wail'd,
But with firm silence bore my fate.

When first Creation's forms withdrew,
The tones of Hope were sweet and clear,
But soon they faint, and fainter grew,
Then gently died upon my ear.
And thus in rosy youth's career
Was I of light and hope bereft,
Thus doom'd to penury severe,
Thus to the world's hard buffets left.

Now more than thirty times the Globe,
Had round the Sun her progress made,
Since Nature in a dark grey robe,
To these sad eyes had been array'd;
When lo! by rigorous duty sway'd,
To thee, oh Gibson! I applied,
And soon by thy transcendent aid,
The new-form'd opening light supplied.

Oh! what a contrast!—thus to rise,
From dungeon darkness into day!

To view again yon azure skies,
And all the blooming flush of May;
Through busy streets to wind my way,
And many a long lost form to mark,
Oh! what a Heaven do these display,
Compar'd to ever-during dark!

To me the Seasons roll'd all gloom,
But now the vast Creation glows,
With bliss: the hawthorn's silvery bloom,
The view, and Summer's blushing rose.
With bliss when withering Autumn blows
The leaves slow falling I descry;
And mark, amidst the Wintry snows,
The flakes in whirling eddies fly.

Before thy powers to me were known,
My steps some friendly arm would guide,
But now midst piping winds alone,
I range the country far and wide;

And oft while towering vessels glide,
And skiff: athwart the white waves steer,
I mark them, as I skirt the tide,
And fearless walk the crowded pier.

What though the light bestow'd by thee,
Is not the light of former days?
Though mists envelope all I see,
Yet take, oh! take my heart-felt praise;
For was not I from Heaven's blest rays,
Shut out through many a rolling year,
And oft remembering this I gaze,
Till feeling pours the grateful tear.

Oh! thou hast wrought a wondrous change,
Hast usher'd me to light once more,
Hast given the mighty power to range
Through mental paths unknown before;
Hast placed within my grasp the lore
Of ancient and of modern days,
And while I thus delighted pore,
Shall I forget a Gibson's praise?

When the lov'd partner of my woe,
And all our young ones I survey,
Can I forget to whom I owe
Those joys that through my bosom play?
No! Gibson! every passing day
Declares the debt I owe to thee;
Declares, whatever Spleen may say,
The wonders thou hast done for me.

She who has long her Seaman mourn'd
As laid beneath the waves at rest,
Yet now beholds the bark return'd
And once more folds him to her breast;
Oh! she who thus has been distress'd,
And thus the highest bliss has known,
Oh! she my woes can fancy best,
And judge my transports by her own.

MY AIN FIRE-SIDE.

BY MRS. HAMILTON.

I HAVE seen many great ones, and sat
in great ha's,
Many Lords, many Ladies a' cover'd wi'
braws,
At feasts made for Princes, wi' Princes
I've been,
Whar' the grand show of splendour has
dazzled my een,
But a sight sae delightful I trow I ne'er
spied,
As the bonny blythe blink o' my ain fire-
side!

*My ain fire-side, my ain fire-side,
Oh charming's the blink o' my ain fire-side.*

Ance mair guid-be-thanked, roun my
ain heartsome ingle,
Wi' the friens o' my youth I cordially
mingle,

Nae forms to compel me to seem wae or
glad,
I may laugh when I'm merry, or sigh
when I'm sad;
Nae falsehood to dread, and nae malice to
fear,
But truth to delight me, and frien'ship to
cheer;
Of a' roads to happiness ever was tried,
There's nane half sae sure as ain's ain fire-
side!

*My ain fire-side, my ain fire-side,
Oh charming's the blink o' my ain fire-side.*
When I draw in my stool, on my cozy
hearth-stane,
My heart louns sae light I scarce ken it
my ain,
Care's flown on the winds, it is quite out
of sight,
Past troubles, they seem, but as dreams
o' the night,
I hear but ken't voices, ken't faces I
see,
And mark fond affection still glowing for
me.
Nae flashings o' flattery, nae boastings o'
pride,
'Tis heart speaks to heart at my ain fire-
side,
O' there's naught to compare wi' my ain
fire-side!

*My ain fire-side, my ain fire-side,
Oh charming's the blink o' my ain fire-side.*

THE XIX PSALM

PARAPHRASED FROM BUCHANAN.

YE sons of vain philosophy and pride,
To folly prone and whelmed in error's
tide,
Behold with sapient contemplation's
eye,
Th' unnumbered glories of the vaulted
sky,
And own what skilful architect divine,
Arched the wide vault, and bade those glo-
ries shine,
Who hung in ambient air this earthly ball;
And poured around the deeps encircling
all.

As day the night, and night the day pur-
sues,
Perpetual change! each hour the truth
renews,
That Chance directs not, with such order-
ed haste,
The rolling wonders of th' ætherial waste,
From shore to shore they pour their beams
abroad,
And through adoring worlds proclaim
their God.

Lives there a race in earth's remote ex-
treme,
So sunk in guilt, so hid from Reason's
beam,

As not to see the fixed Divine controul,
Which guides the course of the revolving
pole?

Who in the silence of the tranquil night,
Unmoved beholds the silvery orbs of light;
Or feels no transport through his bosom
thrill,

When morn comes sporting on the fra-
grant hill;

Or sees, with godless thought, day's re-
gent guide,

His purple chariot from the eastern tide,
Like some young bridegroom glories to
behold,

Arrayed in gems, and bright with floating
gold;

Till down the expanse he bids his coun-
sers fly,

Hurling the day beneath the western sky,
High o'er the thundering steeds august he
stands,

Like a tall giant with his hundred hands,
Of princely port, and majesty, and might,
Proud of his strength, and robed in daz-
zling light,

From east to west he whirls his burning
oar,

Through heaven oblique amid each glow-
ing star,

And pours around the vital heat and soul,
Which warm, support, adorn, and fill the
whole.

But all the glories of th' harmonious
plan,

Ne'er so arrest the wondering thoughts of
man,

As Conscience, inmate of celestial birth,
Child of the skies, but tenant of the earth,
With that celestial law in mercy given,
By secret reins, to guide the soul to Hea-
ven.

Th' Almighty's promise, ever void of
guile,

Can soothe despair, and make affliction
smile,

But when blind Passion prompts the guilt-
ty deed,

That man shall suffer, Justice has decreed,
That loving Justice, in an angel's dress,
Which wounds to cure, and punishes to
bless.

Lo! fair Religion's venerated mien,
For ever shines in majesty serene;

'Tis hers to pour upon the mental sight,
Truth's living ray, and wisdom's chearful
light;

Guarded from age to age, with fear and
awe,

On brazen tablets lives her precious law,
Than gems more rare, or gold's resplendent
ore,

And sweeter than the bee's mellifluous
store.

Deep in the inmost closet of his breast,
Thy child, great Sire! shall lock each
high behest,
And then, with holy awe, shall ever guard,
Thy love, his hope, his glory, and reward.

Who knows the wanderings of the va-
grant mind,
What power can seize them, or what wis-
dom find?

Do thou, O Lord! each imperfection blot,
Nor leave the vestige of a single spot,
Which Sin or Error, with insidious art,
Stamps on the tablet of th' unguarded
heart,

From Pride's dominion arrogant and dire,
Preserve the kingdom of my breast entire,
And save, O save me! from each sinful
care,
From passion's impulse and temptation's
snare.

These warm effusions of a heart sincere,
Author of good, my God, my father, hear!
Whate'er my tongue imperfect has ex-
prest,

Whate'er the thoughts revolving in my
breast,
Tower of my safety, and thou God of
love,

Reserve propitious in thy realms above.
March, 1809.

SELECT POETRY.

VERSES

WRITTEN FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SOCIETY FOR REVIVING THE IRISH HARP.

OH had I liv'd when Ossian ming
Old Erin's sons renown'd in story;
While o'er his harp the warriors hung,
And caught the kindling flame of glory!
Or when around the festive board
That cheer'd the chiefs in Tara dwelling,
The Bard, the tide of music pour'd
With Joy and grief alternate swelling:
*May thoughts like these our bosoms cheer,
As round we pass the bowl of pleasure;
And may the ever-circling year,
Again renew the blissful measure.*

Yet though within the narrow cell,
The fathers of the song are sleeping,
And o'er the scenes they loved so well,
Oblivion's silent mists are creeping;
None more revives the sound of arms,
The tale of Love, the note of Sorrow,
And every strain that once had charms.
A softer tone from time shall borrow.

May thoughts, &c.

Then sound your Harps, ye bards of old,
Who sung, when Erin was a nation,
That ear so dull, what heart so cold,
But echoing thrills in sweet vibration?

Instruct thy sons of latter days,
To catch some portion of thy spirit,
For, oh! when best the song they raise,
Though their's the crown, yet your's
the merit!

May thoughts, &c.

Your's is the spell that crowns the bowl,
With joy while every eye is lighted;
And your's the beam that lights the soul,
By nature's rigid law benighted.
For though no dawn of day appear,
To hail the sightless child of sorrow;
You teach them from the rap'ur'd ear,
A new created bliss to borrow.

May thoughts, &c.

And your's the voice to charm us here,
In social brotherhood unite us;
And your's to bid the unborn year,
To scenes like this again invite us.
From tongue to tongue shall memory dwell
On tales of Erin's ancient glory,
And minstrels yet unborn shall tell
To wond'ring worlds the matchless story.

May thoughts, &c.

SONG, ON THE SAME OCCASION.

AIR—"KITTY TYRREL."

LAST Minstrel of Erin how sweetly thy
finger

In strains of wild melody sweeps o'er the
strings,

While each lengthen'd vibration seems
slowly to linger,

And say "'tis the genius of Erin that sings."
Our hearts wildly thrill with extatic emo-
tion,

As ravish'd we list to thy heavenly strain,
Thy wild notes would tame the rude spirit
of ocean,

And make the poor captive forget all his
pain.

And shall then thy warm earnest pray-
er be rejected?

Shall the song of the Minstrel be suffer-
ed to die?

No! the Harp of Ierne no longer neglected,
Shall again draw a tear from the patriot eye,
For Belfast still contains a few generous
spirits,

That burn to revive "the sweet song of
the bard,"

All who see their exertions, shall speak
of their merits,

And honour unfading shall be their reward.

SONG.

FROM THE SELECTION OF IRISH MELODIES BY
SIR JOHN STEPHENSON, MUS. DOCT. AND
THOS. MOORE, ESQ.

AIR—"BLACK JOKE."

SUBLIME was the warning which Li-
berty spoke,
And grand was the moment when Spa-
niards awoke.

Into life and revenge from the conquer-
or's chain !
Oh Liberty ! let not this spirit have rest,
Till it move, like a breeze, o'er the waves
of the west,
Give the light of your look to each sorrow-
ful spot,
Nor Oh ! be the shamrock of Erin forgot,
While you add to your garland the olive
of Spain.

If the fame of our fathers, bequeath'd with
their rights,
Give to country its charm, and to home
its delights,
If deceit be a wound and suspicion a
stain ;
Then ye men of Iberia, our cause is the
same,
And oh ! may his tomb want a tear and
a name,
Who would ask for a nobler, a holier death,
Than to turn his last sigh into victory's
breath,
For the shamrock of Erin, and olive of
Spain.

Ye Blakes and O'Donnells, whose fathers
resign'd
The green hills of their youth, among
strangers to find
That repose, which at home, they had
sigh'd for in vain ;
Breathe a hope that the magical flame
which you light,

May be felt yet in Erin, as calm, and as
bright,
And forgive even Albion, while blushing
she draws,
Like a truant, her sword, in the long slight-
ed cause,
Of the shamrock of Erin, and olive of
Spain.
God prosper the cause—oh ! it cannot
but thrive,
While the pulse of one patriot heart is
alive,
Its devotion to feel and its rights to
maintain ;
Then, how sainted by sorrow its martyrs
will die,
The finger of glory shall point where they
lie,
While, far from the footstep of coward or
slave,
The young spirit of Freedom shall shelter
their grave,
Beneath shamrocks of Erin and olives of
Spain.

EPICRAM ON THE FUNERAL OF LORD NELSON
AND THE HON. W. PITT, ADDRESSED TO DU-
NAPARTE.

BY GENERAL FITZPATRICK.

FROWN not at funeral honours paid to
him,
Who oft has beat thy fleet,
Since the same pomp awaits on Pitt,
Whose blunders made thee great.

ANCIENT LITERATURE.

The comparative authenticity of Tacitus and Suetonius, illustrated by the question, "Whether Nero was the Author of the Memorable Conflagration at Rome?" By Arthur Browne, LL.D. S.F.T.C.D. and M.R.I.A.

SO much has been said of the candour of Suetonius, and of his work being the most accurate narration extant of the lives of the Emperors, that it is worth the pains to inquire how far these praises are due. Others are said to have been actuated by hatred, or slaves to adulation; he is represented alone as fair and uninfluenced.* For my own part I so much

differ from this opinion, that I have ever considered the rank allotted to Suetonius, in the scale of historical merit, as elevated much beyond his deserts. I am not inclined to trust either his candour or his accuracy, particularly when opposed to, or compared with his rival historian. We are accustomed, I know not how, at an early age, from cotemporary studies, to unite the names of cotemporary historians, and from thence perhaps insensibly to infer a similarity of excellence. The authors perused treat of the same facts, they are read at the same time, and the mind is yet too young for accurate discrimination. May not such associations have had some effect with respect to Suetonius and Tacitus? But the exercise of maturer judgment readily

* See the encomiums collected by Pitiscus, in the preface to his edition of Suetonius.

separates such unions, and detects the apparent parallelism of objects, which, sufficiently pursued, will be found in time infinitely to diverge. This judgment, however, is, in many cases never exercised at all.

A premature perusal of the classics often prevents a subsequent cool revival of their beauties and their merits; impels the man to consider the subjects of the studies of the boy as trifling and disgusting, and indolently to acquiesce in first impressions, rather than retrace steps which appeared unpleasant because involuntary. But he who at maturer years is led by taste or inclination to examine and compare the lights of antiquity, will be astonished at the numerous detections of his errors first imbibed, and corrections of the implicit faith which he has put in some of its oracles; and perhaps no where will he find less reason for confidence than in the secretary of Adrian (for such was Suetonius) however high his post or good his means of information.

The title of this Essay indicates my intention to confine my observations to the comparative fidelity in narration of the celebrated writers therein mentioned, without touching on their other relative perfections or imperfections. The instance which I have selected to illustrate this point (for abundance of them might be found*) may to some appear trifling; and it may be asked,

* Such as Suetonius' assertion, that Tiberius abolished the privilege of sanctuary, when the contrary, which is asserted by Tacitus, is proved beyond a doubt, by coins subsequent to his reign; his making Germanicus conquer a king of Armenia, when Armenia had no king, and was not at war with Rome; his representation of the character of Nero, in many respects differing from the traits given by Tacitus and others; his mentioning the loss of an army in Asia, when from Tacitus it appears it was only the rumour of such a loss. Surely these variances would not have appeared trifling to Lipsius, who took such pains to reconcile these authors, when differing in the point. Whether Agrippa Posthumus was killed by a centurion or a tribune of the soldiers, Josephus observes, that no man's character has been more misrepresented from adulation on the one side and prejudice on the other, than Nero's.

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who, in the eighteenth century, can be interested in the question, whether Rome, in the first, was burnt by the hand of her natural protector, or of what utility is the discussion which tends to wash away one spot from the bloody garb of Nero? The objection should not come from the theoretic lover of truth, never despising inquiry and discrimination; nor will the expulsion of falsehood from history ever appear trifling to its practical admirers. The question too is not totally unconnected with the well-known controversy on morals, on the existence of gratuitous malevolence, as any alleged motives for this supposed conduct of the tyrant are utterly unsatisfactory to the rational mind.* But its chief importance rests on the grounds I have premised. If we detect an historian in any one instance, in a peremptory and dogmatical assertion of a disputed, nay an improbable charge, have we not cause to view his writings with general suspicion, and scrutinize with jealous eye his accuracy or his candour? And we cannot select a better example than that of a direct and unqualified allegation of a plain and simple fact, into which, if false, the writer could not from any circumstances be supposed to be innocently or unwittingly betrayed.

Suetonius, then, directly and circumstantially ascribes the conflagration at Rome in the time of Nero to that detested Emperor, while Tacitus only says, *forte an dolo Imperatoris incertum*. The authority of the former seems to have prevailed, and few traditions have been more strongly believed, or sayings more frequently applied, than, "that Nero fiddled while Rome was burning." I apprehend therefore that the following arguments to the contrary will have at least the

* The desire of seeing the resemblance of Troy in flames is too childish to be imputed even to the fantastical mind of Nero, and the design of burning a great city in order to improve and rebuild it, if indeed necessary, in the plenitude of his power, for such object (while under our moderate government similar improvement is without difficulty attained on valuing the houses pulled down) does not seem to be confirmed by his subsequent actions.

D d

recommendation of novelty, as the opposite opinion has never been hinted by any writer whom I have met, except the Abbé Millot, who annexes no reasons for his doubts.

The reader who recollects the idle calumnies, which, upon a similar occasion, were thrown out against a Prince of our own, Charles the Second, and the numberless insinuations of opposite parties at that period, branding each other with the name of incendiaries, will not incautiously assent to the rumour bred by inflamed imaginations, ascribing to malice the off-spring of accident.

Whoever has implicitly believed that Rome was burnt by Nero, will find, to his surprise, on the first peep into Tacitus, this passage. *Hoc tempore, Nero Antii agens*, the paragraph which first indeed, by exciting my wonder, drew my attention to this subject. The man, who is depicted as sitting on a lofty tower of his palace, attuning to the harp the poet's numbers on the destruction of Troy, in the midst of the imperial city, with whose fires his eyes were feasted, was not, at their commencement at least, in Rome at all. This should seem almost to terminate the question: but, no! the critic will say, Antium was only ten miles from Rome, and the Emperor had ample time to arrive there long before the extinction of the flames; in fact he did so, when he found that the most vigorous orders, which he had issued from Antium had no effect. Such orders he had issued, and it shows his alacrity in trying to have the fire extinguished before his arrival. Let us see then how he acted after his arrival. During the very confusion and terror of the conflagration it may have been difficult to ascertain the conduct of the Prince; and it is during that period that Suetonius charges him with encouraging the flames and cherishing the incendiaries. "Voices of men," says he, "were heard, exclaiming that they acted by orders from the Emperor, and emissaries from his very household might have been apprehended in the act of spreading the flames." That the Emperor should have been absurd enough to furnish incendiaries with the authority of his name is incredible; but let us remember that within three

years past the destroyers of the castle of the nobility in France pleaded authority from that king whose throne they were on the point of overturning. To these idle tales I oppose the acknowledged behaviour of Nero, after the extinction of the fire, when it stands unveiled by that cloud of confusion and rumour which always attends present calamity. He opened his gardens for the sufferers, he pitched tents for them, he laboured to provide them with necessaries, he cheapened the price of corn; such are the testimonies of Tacitus. On his previous absence, on his subsequent conduct, I might perhaps then rest his innocence; but it is confirmed by some other strong arguments to which I now proceed.

The Emperor is charged with setting fire to the city, that he might enjoy the beauty of the sight. It appears from Tacitus, that so far from coveting the spectacle, his fault was, indolent reluctance to move from Antium. He issued from thence the most vigorous orders for extinguishing the flames, but he refused to stir till his own palace was on fire. It was in this situation that he must be supposed to have run up with his harp, immediately on his arrival, to the top of the tower of Mæcenæ; a station where he stood a very reasonable chance of being broiled for his pains. The supposition is too ludicrous to admit a doubt of its falsehood; and this being as confidently asserted as any circumstance, must make us doubt of the truth of all the rest. Let us combine, then, the absence of the Emperor from the capital when the fire began, his active orders before he left Antium, his unwillingness to leave it, the situation of the city on his arrival, and his behaviour after the conflagration, and see where we can find the least probable trace of the tale of Suetonius.

The spot where the fire broke out affords another very strong argument of want of design; *In prædiis Tigellini Emilianis proruperat*, says Tacitus. He observes, indeed, that *plus infamie incendium habuit*, for that reason, that it, because it was on the estate of Tigellius; but where were these Prædiæ? In the district called the Emilianæ. Now this district was quite without the city: as any one will find upon con-

sulting the plan of ancient Rome. *Eorum ædificia qui habitant extra Portam Frumentariam, aut in Æmilianis*, says Varro, lib. iii. *de re Rustica*. What could have induced the Emperor, whose abilities do not seem to have been contemptible, to have adopted such an extraordinary method of firing the city, by kindling the flame in its remotest suburbs? "He was accused," says Tacitus, "of having been actuated with the desire of bounding a new city, and calling it by his name." Did he do so? And what prevented him? The consequence did not follow, and the imputed means were absurdly disproportionate to the motive.

That the fire in the Æmiliana was accidental will become more than probable, when we find that it was a quarter where dangerous and extensive conflagrations had happened before. It appears from Suetonius, in his account of the reign of Claudius, chap. xviii. that one had obstinately raged in this region, during the life of that Prince: *Ubi Æmiliana pertinacius arderent*. And it appears that it was of consequence enough to call for the presence and incessant labour of the Emperor himself and his whole court: We may reasonably conjecture, therefore, that it was a part of the suburbs, for some reason or other, perhaps, by being the site of hazardous manufactures, particularly exposed and obnoxious to these calamities.

It is true that Tacitus, in another place, says, with a seeming contradiction, *Initium in ea parte Circi ortum, quæ Palatino Calioque Montibus contigua est*; and Fieury in his Ecclesiastical History, founding the assertion on this passage, says it broke out in some shops about the Circus, without taking notice of the other alledged site of its commencement.

The commentators on Tacitus have endeavoured to reconcile the difference, and insist that it broke out in two places, the Circus and the Æmiliana. Now, as to the Circus, Tacitus himself accounts for its rise and progress there, *Ubi per tabernas, quibus id Mercimenium inerat quo flamma alitur, ceptus ignis*. The fire began in certain shops filled with inflammable materials, and naturally calculated to

originate and diffuse the flames. Where they could so easily be accounted for, who would have seen, reflected by their light, the deadly visage of the tyrant, but those whose horrors of his crimes and terror of his wickedness, raised on every occasion the imperial phantom before their alarmed imaginations. Let us not fear that by deducting this little burthen of guilt we shall leave too small a portion of infamy to satiate resentment and deter imitation. The bloody roll of Nero's crimes will scarcely appear diminished by expunging this inferior title to abhorrence.

It is an inferior circumstance, yet not entirely unworthy of note, that the rumours which had reached the ears of the two historians, as to Nero's conduct, essentially varied. To the one he had been represented as going openly and publicly to the summit of Mæneas' tower to sing the late of Troy, while to the other he was depicted as retiring into his private apartments (*in domesticam scenam*) there secretly to enjoy the devastation of his groaning country. Uncertainty and contradiction are the sisters of unfounded report.

From the account given us of this event by Tacitus, we find that the Emperor's object, in at length leaving Antium to go to Rome, was to save his palace. Now in this he did not succeed. The palace was destroyed, and yet he is afterwards accused of constructing a new palace of wonderful magnificence out of the ruins of his country (*Usus est patriæ ruinis*, says Tacitus) not without insinuation that such might have been partly the object of the antecedent devastation. There is nothing in his previous conduct to support the suspicion, for he was anxious to save his former residence, and to prevent the necessity of erecting a new one.

The anxiety of Nero to avoid the charge is utterly incompatible with the narration of Suetonius, *Incendit urbem tam palam*, says that historian, *Ut plerique Consulares. Cubiculariisq; suis, cum stupra tadque, in prædiis suis deprehensos non attigerint*. It is incredible that he, who so much dreaded the imputation, should have committed the fact without disguise. That he

used every exertion to avert the charge appears from Tacitus—by anxious and active care to expedite the rebuilding of the city—by princely largesses to the sufferers—by supplications and atoning sacrifices to the gods, he laboured to extricate himself from the infamy. It is true he was not successful. Such was the odium against him. *Non ope humana, non largitionibus principis, aut delum placamentis decedebat infamia.* He then endeavoured to throw the suspicion on the Christians, since he found the world too prejudiced to ascribe the event to accident—with equal want of success indeed. But all which I wish to infer is, that this extreme anxiety confutes the notion of his rash unguarded promotion of the calamity; and that he was particularly distressed at this rumour appears from his known character, which was, in general, to despise all rumours, *Nihil patientius quam maledicta et convitiū hominum tulit.*—Suetonius, p. 258.

The extent of the power of prejudice against this miserable Prince, at this period, cannot be more strongly exemplified than in the murmurs which Tacitus mentions, occasioned by his opening the city and widening the streets, because, as was alleged, the old narrow streets and lofty houses contributed exceedingly to the salubrity of Rome, by protecting the passengers from the heat of the sun. I will even draw an argument from the virulence of Suetonius. "He would not suffer," says that writer, "the bodies of the dead who perished in the fire, to be burnt by their friends, nor the ruins of the edifices to be removed by the owners, but took the charge upon himself, for the sake of plunder." Whether those who were burnt already required to be burnt again I know not; but does not the ill-nature of the remark proclaim the inclination of the author? Is it not more natural to suppose, that the fear of pestilence, from the exposition of bodies left to the random care of individuals, in a time of general distraction, required the interposition of government and the adoption of public regulations, to prevent the possibility of private negligence? And was it not right in the governing power of the state to refuse

to trust to the weakness or indolence of the subject, the office of removing rubbish and ruins, whose immense heaps forbade improvement and postponed renovation?

The truth is, when Suetonius wrote, invective against the race of Cæsar opened the way to honour and preferment. Abuse of the Augustan family was the fashion of succeeding times, and the instrument of flattery with succeeding Emperors. With infinite caution, therefore, are we to admit the adulatory invective of the writers of the age of Trajan. The fidelity of history was made to bow to the etiquette of courts and the interest of historians.

This propensity to blaeken the Cæsars, received, in the particular instance of Nero, additional height in latter times from the enmity of the Christians. His cruel persecution of Christianity, and his inordinate wickedness, in averting upon its votaries the calumny thrown upon himself, with the signal martyrdoms of St. Peter and St. Paul, under his dominion, have stamped him with the most sanguinary dye in the annals of religion. It was natural to surmise that the man who so unjustly accused others, had not been unjustly accused himself. His innocence was supposed to include their crimination; and as the empire became Christian, it became in a manner impious to doubt his guilt.

On whom does the authority of this legend rest? As appears to me, on the character of Suetonius alone. The careful peruser of Tacitus will, I think, agree with me, that he did not believe the tale; he wrote before Suetonius; and possessed earlier and better channels of inquiry. Suetonius was secretary to Adrain, whose reign was preceded by the death of Tacitus.* The next author who mentions the charge with confidence is Dio Cassius, who lived in the reign of Alexander Severus, two hundred years after the event; no testimony can go beyond its first original; the tribe of servile copiers add not a jot of weight to the evidence.

Aurelius Victor, Eutropius, Marcus Aurelius Cassiodorus and Jornandes, the

* A is generally supposed.

only subsequent Latin writers who repeat the clamour, merely echo the assertions of Suetonius and Dio. They could not be much better judges of the matter than we at this day, had they even taken the trouble to weigh the evidence. Aurelius Victor and Eutropius lived at a period three hundred years distant from the time of the conflagration, in the reigns of Julian and Valentinian; Cassiodorus was consul under Theodoric, and born in 476; and Jornandes, in Justinian's age, was secretary to a king of the Goths. As to the principal modern writers who assert and insist on the fact, and particularly the ecclesiastical historians, Xiphilinus, Vitranus and Sulpicius, though they lived earlier than Fleury, who in the present century supports their opinion, their assertions can have no more weight than his, nor their knowledge of the facts be greater than ours. Xiphilinus was the professed abridger of Dio Cassius. Dio repeated from Suetonius, and upon the foundation of Suetonius' authority the whole fabric must ultimately depend. If any thing has been added, it has probably been the work of exuberant imagination, like that of Karholtus of Hamburgh, a modern ecclesiastical writer, who represents the Emperor at a banquet sending forth troops of incendiaries, and sitting to hear at intervals the triumphant tale of their horrid exploits, a picture of which he could not have found the least trait in any ancient historian. It remains only to observe, that Suetonius, the father of this tale, could not have been unwittingly deceived into this assertion.

Thus have I endeavoured to scrutinize, in this instance, the accuracy and authenticity of Suetonius, which may

be a clue to his general character as a writer, the only object perhaps which could have justified my calling the attention to a question so remote, and seemingly so uninteresting.

Always, as I have said, has that historian appeared to me to be overrated; the indecency of his descriptions has been often condemned, and it was well observed, that Suetonius wrote the lives of the Emperors with the same licentiousness with which they lived. Were I to compare Suetonius with any writer of our own time, in point of credit due to his narration, I would scarcely assign him a place superior to Smollet's; I mean not with respect to composition, but as to authenticity and materials. Both of them seem to have compiled from the *actus diurni*, or newspapers of the day, and to merit equal authority with those crude and hasty chronicles. If the one has lived for eighteen centuries, while the other possibly may not for one, it has perhaps been owing to the charms of his composition, not to the dignity of his history.

If these remarks shall in any degree tend to ascertain the rank of this famed historian in the scale of history, or rather by calling the attention of more accurate observers to the general complexion of his works, to induce them to ascertain it, they have an importance which at this remote time they could not borrow from the subject itself. They may perhaps also derive some additional claim to attention, from the circumstance of a celebrated attack having been lately made by Mr. Whitaker of Manchester, on the authenticity of his rival historian, in a comparison between Tacitus and Gibbon.

Trans. R. I. Acad.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Letter to Lord Viscount Southwell, containing Remarks on vesting in his Majesty the nomination of Catholic Bishops.... By J. B. Trotter, Esq. late private Secretary to the Right Honourable Charles James Fox.... Dublin, Printed by H. Fitzpatrick, Capel-street. 1808. p.p. 36. price, 1s. 8d.

SINCERELY attached to Catholic Emancipation, on the broad prin-

ciple, that the State ought to have no cognizance over opinions on the subject of religion, we rejoiced at the more liberal practice which had for some time prevailed, to do away the penal code, and remove disabilities on account of difference of opinions. We therefore cannot but regret that a mistaken policy has latterly interrupted the progress of this good work and that temporary party polit

should be permitted to frustrate the dictates of justice and sound policy.

In the discussion which took place in the last session of Parliament, hints were thrown out, that in case of the remaining restrictions on Catholics being removed, the Catholics would concede to the King, or in other words, to the Minister of the day, the right of rejection on the nomination of their Bishops. This measure appears to have been proposed from a desire to facilitate the adoption of the plan of emancipation, by blunting the edge of prejudice. This was to be effected by strengthening the hands of government, to allay the fears of the timid, and to gratify the wish of some, by throwing additional power to a quarter, which although already possessing great power, is still desirous to grasp at more. The Commons of England, about twenty-seven years ago, resolved, "that the power of the Crown had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished;" and certainly the current of events, since that period has not tended to diminish this power.

Much discussion has since taken place, on this subject of the Veto, as it is technically called, among the Catholic body. The landed interest among them appear generally in favour of making this concession. The Bishops at a general meeting have resolved, that it is inexpedient to allow this power to the King, though in an explanation which was afterwards given by one of their body, it is admitted that the granting of this power is not inconsistent with the essential doctrines of the Catholic church. The letter to Lord Southwell, now under review is written to support the negative side of conceding this power; and the writer discovers a warm and liberal heart. In venturing to differ from him, on some parts of this letter, we enter on the subject with great reluctance: but candour and a sense of duty are paramount obligations, when we do speak, to speak with sincerity and plainness.

The subject appears to be unnecessarily complicated with the Union. The introduction of political considerations on one side frequently draws on a recurrence to a similar mode

of reasoning on the other, in a matter in which they ought to have no place on either side: neither does it appear necessary to the proper elucidation of the subject, to recur to motives founded on the stamp of antiquity, or drawn from national vanity. The doctrine of unlimited liberty of religious opinions, stands on a securer basis, than on an adherence to sentiments merely because they had been adopted by our ancestors, or come recommended to us by the pomp of mouldering towers, and venerable ruins. The latter mode of treating the subject has the appearance of an attempt to remove prejudice, by means of other prejudices. If such sentiments were to prevail, where would be the progressive improvement of mankind? One generation would then follow another in the same beaten track. We, slaves to the opinions of our ancestors, and in succession to become ancestors to our posterity. Antiquity adds no weight to opinions. Arguments calmly produced are the only weapons which truth allows her votaries to use. Man should think, and allow others to think unmolested and undisturbed, without attempts on any side to point the finger of ridicule, or to add the weight of legal disqualifications against the adherents either to old or new opinions.

In advocating the just claims of the oppressed, it is not necessary to identify ourselves with them in an approbation of their opinions. Through an amiable error, a generous heart may be sometimes induced to mix strong feelings in this manner, and to combine two things essentially different. In thus expressing ourselves let it not be thought that we wish in the smallest degree, to fritter away the rights of the Catholics to entire emancipation. Far from us be the thought! The aim is to hold an even balance. They have a right to exercise private judgment, unfettered by pains and penalties. We have the same, and cannot relinquish through a complaisance to the opinions of others, the free expression of our own. The energetic language of Mirabeau is consecrated by its soundness and striking propriety. "The communion of every man with the most High is independent of all political institution. There is a pro-

erty which no man wishes to make common: the movements of his soul, and the transports of his mind. The examination of principles, considered as opinions, concern us no more. Between God and the heart of man, what government dares to interfere?"

This pamphlet abounds with many good arguments, to show the impolicy of vesting in the crown the right of exercising a power of rejection over the nomination of the Bishops. In these remarks the Reviewer fully coincides. But he also takes the liberty to inquire why is dependence on any external power necessary? May not the nomination of Catholic Bishops be equally independent of the Pope as of the King? Dr. O'Reilly admits that this right of election consists with the general principle of their Church, and Charles Butler, a late Catholic writer, has shown that this mode is practised by them in other countries. Many important advantages would appear to result from the adoption of this independent mode, for which some enlightened Catholics are zealous advocates. Some years ago the Bishops were nominated by the Pope, mostly by the influence of the Catholic aristocracy of Ireland. Latterly the clergy of the diocese return the name of the object of their choice to the Pope, for his approbation. A germ of improvement may be perceived in this manner of election, and we trust there is room to hail the increasing liberality of future days.

The friends to free discussion, well knowing the inestimable value of it, cannot but be anxious that it should universally prevail; and that Catholics and Protestants, however they may differ in some respects, forgetting former times, in which both have erred, may cordially unite in the wish that the disposition and power to persecute for diversity of opinion may cease. As the possession of power has a strong tendency to corrupt the human heart, let us hope for the extension and prevalence of that liberal policy, when neither party shall have the dominancy over the other; but both be contented without seeking for mastery, to live as brethren. In former days both parties set up a *standard mind*, and mutually persecuted each other. The absurdity of forcing opinions is gra-

dually becoming more apparent, and notwithstanding some unfavourable paroxysms now and then occurring, we have confidence in the progress of liberality, and in an enlightened and enlarged policy superceding the dogmata of intolerance and bigotry. K.

An Introduction to the Irish Language, in three parts, 1, an Original and Comprehensive Grammar. 2, Familiar Phrases and Dialogues. 3, Extracts from Irish Books and Manuscripts, in the Original character, with copious Tables of the Contractions. By the Rev. W. Neilson, D.D. p.p. 282. Dublin, Wogan, 1805. price 6s. 6d.

INTERESTED as we feel for every publication which respects the honour and improvement of our country, we have not contemplated without pleasure, the recent attempts which have been making to introduce a taste for the study of the Irish language. A language which is spoken by at least one third of the inhabitants of the British isles, and by more than three fourths of the natives of Ireland, has some claim to attention; especially in an age which boasts of its familiarity with the dialects of the East, of having penetrated the wilds of Africa in quest of knowledge, and enriched its etymological repositories by vocabularies from the islands of the Pacific, and the banks of the Ohio.

Many circumstances, however, have contributed to discourage the study of our vernacular tongue. The distracted state of the country was for many ages unfavourable to its cultivation, and the narrow and mistaken policy of England, during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. passed strict injunctions to prevent it from being longer spoken in our schools. Due care also has been taken to depreciate its beauty and excellence, by representing it as harsh and unmusical, abounding in guttural sounds, and aspirates, and presenting a constant discordance between its orthography and pronunciation. When Anne with a liberality worthy of a Queen, proposed to establish Professorships of the Irish language, in her universities, she was dissuaded by the Duke of

Ormond, who, to convince her that it was a barbarous dialect, resembling the barking of a dog, constructed the following harsh and non-sensical sentence, *d'ith damh dubh obh amh*, i. e. a black ox eat a raw egg. This specimen, it must be acknowledged, is not very harmonious, but where is there a combination of harsher sounds than that contained in the translation? "a black ox eat a raw egg!"

Those who are well versed in the Irish language, and they are the proper judges, contend that in harmony, copiousness, and strength, it equals the ancient Greek; that it is the root of the Latin of the twelve tables; that it was spoken by Hamilcar and Hannibal; and that it was not only the primitive language of Europe, and of a great part of Asia and Africa, but of paradise itself.

Though we do not carry our ideas of its antiquity to quite so remote a period, we readily agree with the learned Vallancey, "that it is free from the anomalies, sterility, and heteroclite redundancies, which mark the dialects of barbarous nations; it is rich and melodious; it is precise and copious, and affords these elegant conversions, which no other than a thinking and lettered people can use or require." "*Est quidem Lingua Hibernica, et elegans cum primis, et opulenta*," says the learned Usher. Of its indispensable necessity to the antiquarian, the ingenious author of the *Archæologia Britannica*, has given ample testimony. He found in Irish the origin of many words, whose roots he had vainly endeavoured to find in the Welsh, the Cornish, and Armoric.

That the Irish language is calculated to express the warmest feelings of the heart, with peculiar force and pathos, every one who has but a superficial knowledge of our Bardic compositions, must allow. The warm-hearted, generous, and high spirited Irishman, would soon have created a language, had he not been taught one, expressive of his feelings. Accordingly the wild strains of our Bards have long been a subject of great and deserved admiration, and there are flowers of poetry to be culled in the unfrequented, and almost unknown paths of the Hibernian Muse, not less beautiful and fragrant, than those which

adorned Parnassus or bloomed by the banks of the Helicon.

The principal objection to the study of the Irish language, is the scarcity of valuable books. Such as have escaped the ravages of time, and the persecution of more formidable enemies, are now difficult of access, being locked up in the cabinets of the curious, or the libraries of universities. There is reason, however to hope that this objection will soon be removed, and that our ancient historical records, poems, and other compositions will be drawn from their obscurity. A Society has been lately established in Dublin, for the investigation and revival of ancient Irish literature, and a volume published under their auspices containing several important tracts in the original Gaelic or Irish, literally translated into English. The author of this work waits only for public patronage, which we sincerely wish may be literally granted, to publish the *Finnian Tales and Poems*, the source of McPherson's Ossianic imposture, in their genuine form.

It is humiliating to the pride of Irish literature, to reflect that its chief promoters have been obliged to, foreign countries for a patronage and support which they vainly solicited at home. The first grammar of our language was published by the Rev. Francis O'Molloy at Rome in 1677, and the second by H. McCurtin, at Louvain in 1728. These were followed by that of general Vallancey in 1782. The Rev. Mr. Shaw, and the Rev. Mr. Stewart; natives of Scotland, have also contributed to the revival of the Gaelic tongue by the publication of their respective Grammars.

In 1795, the Belfast press published a Gaelic Magazine, *Bolg an tsolair*, containing some of the elements of Grammar, and a variety of selections from the translations of Miss Brook. It was intended to continue the publication, but from want of encouragement, or some other cause, which we have not been able to ascertain, only one number made its appearance. Two new Grammars have been just published, one by an anonymous author, who need not be ashamed to declare his name, and the other which is the subject of Review, by the Rev. Dr. Neilson, of Dundalk.

We are pleased to meet in the preface of the former, the following just tribute to General Vallancey. "This profound and erudite scholar has successfully endeavoured to rescue our language from oblivion; he published an elaborate Grammar of it, which contains much curious and original information, and particularly a *laborious arrangement of the irregular verbs, for which every successive Grammarian must acknowledge himself particularly indebted.*" We coincide perfectly in this opinion, and think it would not have detracted any thing from the merit of Dr. Neilson's work to have made the same candid acknowledgment, though it might have suggested to him the propriety of expunging the word "original" from his title page. His Grammar neither is nor could be original. See McCurtin, Vallancey, and Shaw: from all of whom he has been obliged to borrow, and from whom, if he had not borrowed, his work must of necessity have been defective. Could any man at the present day compose an original French or English Grammar? We may improve on the labours of our predecessors, but to speak of originality is absurd. We make these observations not to extenuate the merits of the work. We have long entertained a high opinion of Dr. Neilson's erudition, and hope that he may enjoy the due reward of his labours, fame and profit. Every classical scholar should feel indebted to him for his excellent Greek Exercises. That he has rendered a service to the cause of Irish letters the work before us clearly evinces. It is a work of time, labour, and an accurate knowledge of the language. It is also the most copious we have seen. Indeed we think it faulty in this respect, and though we should be unwilling to suspect Dr. Neilson of an inclination to book-making, we were rather surprised to find that he had extended the declension of the verb *Bi*, through no less than five octavo pages, and *Buail* through eight and a half. He has sacrificed too much to modern opinion, and to the prevalent propensity of assimilating all languages in their Etymology and Syntax to Latin and Greek. This is particularly observable in the declension of the verbs. Tense follows tense, and mode

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follows mode, which neither the genius of the language, nor the custom of our fore-fathers will justify. The Irish, like the Hebrew, has only two modes, the indicative and imperative, "The expressions of conditional will, possibility, liberty, obligation, &c. which form the optative mode in Greek, and the subjunctive mode in Latin are all formed by certain auxiliaries annexed to the indicative mode." As Grammars are intended for the use of learners, simplicity cannot be too much studied, and for this reason we prefer the formula of the conjugation of the verbs *Danaim* and *Brism*, contained in the 85th page of the anonymous Grammar. The learner of moderate capacity can commit them both to memory in a short time, and obtain from them a clear and accurate idea of the conjugation of other verbs. But the very appearance of Dr. Neilson's *Buail*, with its present affirmatives, and present negatives, present and future affirmatives, and present and future negatives; consuetudinal affirmatives, and consuetudinal negatives, with its optative moods, &c. is absolutely terrifying, and seems to present at the very commencement, an insurmountable obstacle to the beginner.

Particular attention has been paid to the Syntax, and each rule is illustrated by a great number and variety of examples. The work also contains some familiar dialogues which will be useful to the student, and a translation of the songs of Deardra, from the death of the three sons of Usna. If these were intended for an exercise to learners, they are too loosely translated, and we should prefer O'Flanagan's mode, though more shackled, of rendering word for word.

"Delight of my soul, a shower of tears shall fall upon your grave, is not a translation of"

O cuid mo leannan naimsi,

Do dean air uaige ceata.

Since thou art gone from me, my beloved, a shower, &c.

We particularly object to the translation of the following verse,

Glean laoiqe, on glean laoiqe

Do 'codlainn san tuhoirín mín :

Iasg, is fion, is saill brúic,

Fa hi mo cuid angleann laoiqe.

Glenlee, oh Glenlee! amidst thy

2 c

shady thickets I slept, or feasted with
my love in Glenlee.

Thus literally by O'Flanagan,

Vale of Laith, O in the vale of Laith

I used to sleep under soft coverlets,

Fish and venison, and the delicious
prime of the budger,

Was my repast in the vale of Laith.

A principal object of learning languages is to acquire a knowledge of the manners and customs of the people by whom they were spoken, and therefore the naked idea of the original, however foreign to our modes, is to be preferred to all the meretricious, and accommodating drapery of translation. Dr. Nelson thought perhaps that it was unbecoming a Lady of Deardra's rank and consequence to praise the delight she had in feasting on a *brock*, and therefore, omitted the passage in his translation. But this very circumstance is an internal evidence of the antiquity of the poem. No such ideas are to be found in M'Pherson's *Ossian*, a certain proof that it is an imposition. The language and manners of his heroes and heroines are such as never existed in any age nor in any country.

There is a striking difference between the orthographies of Dr. Nelson and O'Flanagan. The latter has been endeavouring to restore the true orthography, and it is much to be wished that Irish scholars would fix on some determinate standard, to prevent the errors of ignorant or careless transcribers.

H.

Practical Sermons, on interesting subjects, by Thomas E. Higginson, A.B. Curate of Lumbeg, and Minister of the Lisburn Academy. Sermon 1st, 8vo. pp. 24. Belfast, Smyth and Lyons. Price, 10d.

THE author's design in publishing this sermon, which we are informed, is intended as the commencement of a series on similar subjects, reflects much credit on him as a teacher of Christianity. They are meant, to use his own words,

"To exhibit a specimen of discourses calculated for general utility, and uniting an exposition of the Christian Faith with its practical tendency, avoiding too frequent recurrence to controversial disputations. He is apprehensive

that the generality of our warm disputants have never gathered their creed from the Bible, but having formed an attachment to some favourite sentiment before they were qualified to come to any settled decision from the scriptures, they save themselves the trouble of a laborious research, by using the compilations of some favoured guide, and judge of the doctrines of Scripture by his exposition of them.

"The beauty of truth is best exhibited in the Bible, and were men to employ such a portion of their time in studying it, as they expend on human compositions, and studying it with a proper temper of mind, with a resolution to do, as well as to know their duty, and with an application for divine light and assistance, we should soon see a different aspect of things in the Christian Church; divisions would cease among us, unity would take the place of discord, and truth and righteousness prevail over error and sin.

"To forward this desirable end, to exhort to a spirit of love and union among Christians, and as a great *mean* (means) of promoting it, to an unbiassed enquiry for ourselves into the sacred records, to explain the essential doctrines of our faith in a scriptural and practical manner, and in these eventful times to strengthen the stability of these kingdoms, *wherein only the Ark of God may be said to rest*, by pointing them to the strong hold for strength, and by exhortations to loyalty and piety, is the object the author has in view by his intended publications."

We heartily agree with our author in lamenting the deadly effects of the various differences of opinion existing in the Christian world, both on the happiness of society in general, and on the mind of every individual who devotes his thoughts to the investigation of the controverted points; we also coincide with him, that when the Bible is the standard by which all these differences must be ultimately regulated, it would be better to refer to it at once, than to depend on the expositions given by partial, perhaps ill-informed advocates. When the text is plain, why turn to the comment? By this mode of proceeding, one essential point, and which the author of these sermons justly deems of the first

importance, would be established. The perusal of the sacred volume, by showing how frequently the spirit of love and union among mankind is inculcated, that there is not a page which does not teem with precepts and instances to this effect, while the differences in doctrine, which have been the cause of most of the national and many of the private calamities of man, are noticed seldom and occasionally, such a perusal would prove that the instilling of this spirit into the human mind, and making it the grand mover of our thoughts and actions, is the very essence of Christianity. It would be then found that Benevolence, Toleration and Philanthropy, words which have of late years been almost banished from the vocabulary by the clamours of a party, and which are now so little in repute, that their very mention raises an outcry against the speaker, these exceptionable words, or as they are otherwise expressed, "Peace on earth, good will towards men," would be found to be the basis of christianity.

But though we highly approve of the author's motive, it may be questioned whether he has taken the proper method of accomplishing his purpose. If the Bible be the proper source of necessary information, to what purpose are these sermons? That they are not written solely for the purpose of recommending the study of that book, is evident not only from this before us, which is avowedly published as a specimen, but from the words of the author already quoted, that he intends to *explain the essential doctrines of our faith, in a scriptural and practical manner.* By what right is his explanation to supersede all others? Does he think himself competent to a task which has baffled the piety, learning and ingenuity of all the teachers to the present day? While every other commentator who has undertaken to expound the word of truth, has, instead of promoting union, traced the line for some new distinction among christians, does he hope to be able to amalgamate all the heterogeneous sentiments into a coalescent mass, to unite all the branches that are every day dividing in greater numbers, and form them again into a single trunk as at first? That such an union is possible, we doubt not;

that it will happen, we sincerely hope; but how or when, we dare not venture to conjecture. Yet this is the undertaking on which Mr. Higginson has ventured. Let us see how far, the ability of the execution corresponds with the boldness of the attempt.

The subject of the first sermon is of a general nature, totally unconnected with any controverted point among Christians, concerning which there is but one opinion, and requires rather to be recommended to the practice than enforced on the understanding. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" The truth of this as a point of doctrine is undeniable. But as the saving of the soul is a distant motive, while the enjoyment of the world incessantly presses on us, the frequent reiteration of the precept cannot but be useful in directing the enquirer to the proper means of guarding against the one and securing the other. This seems to be the writer's view in this prefatory discourse, and so far it is judiciously prefixed. He proceeds to prove by example the insufficiency of the several sources of worldly happiness, which he classes under the heads of sensual enjoyments, riches and honours. The following quotation will serve as an example both of his style and method of treating his subject.

"Is Bel-hazzar happy? Behold the king feasting with his thousand lords; himself and his princes, his wives and his concubines, drinking out of the golden vessels taken out of the temple of God. What an enviable object of carnal enjoyment! The very existence of the true God ridiculed and despised, *his worship trampled upon, his memory forgotten, given up to weak minds,* and present enjoyment all in all. Here, *if you please,* was true philosophy. But behold, in the midst of his drunken riot, a hand writing on the wall, "Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting." How are the joints of his loins loosed? How do his knees smite against each other? And how are his thoughts troubled within him? Infidelity now becomes conviction; conviction without profit. That night was Belshazzar king of the Chaldeans slain, and all his pleasures perished with him.

Yet Belshazzar at his death honoured the God of Israel, and Daniel his servant. Alas! it was too late. It is not *dying*, but *living piety* that God requires of us. There is nothing in any situation that precludes us from the worship of the true God. Had Belshazzar, honoured Jehovah, and given up his sensuality, he might have been as exalted in his character for his virtues, as he was remarkable for his vices; he might have lived honourable and died happy."

The train of argument in general is rather vague and desultory, and towards the latter part deviating into a kind of wild rhapsody of unconnected expressions which convey no fixed and determinate idea to the mind. But what strikes us as particularly censurable, is, that while the author professes to keep clear of all controversial points, he lays down as principles some of those very points whence the greatest schisms of the christian church have originated. Indeed without going farther, the passage we have marked in our quotation from his preface, is a sufficient proof of this, in which he asserts that the true religion is exclusively confined to the British Islands. In entering on this part of the subject, it must be premised that we do not intend to give an opinion on any of the points at issue, but merely to shew by them that the author has at the very commencement deviated from that course which he had traced out for himself.

In the second page we find these words. "For this end he emptied himself of his glory, and tabernacled in the flesh," evidently assuming the divinity of Christ, as if of universal acception, which we know is by no means the fact. In another place the following passage occurs;

"Let us suppose that this awful day is come. The Son of Man appears in his glory: The Heavens melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth: the day of vengeance is come, and the glory of our God: The judgment is set and the books are opened. You too are arraigned at the bar: the law is read, and its dreadful anathema, "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things written in the book of the law to do them;"

where now are your pleas of merit? alas! all fled—who will produce his *works of supererogation?* Conscience, now a swift witness, exposes the cheat. Demerit, all demerit appears to belong to humanity; and the scrutinizing eye of man, as well as of God, exposes every vain plea of human righteousness.

What have I said? is there not a human righteousness? there is. *Human yet complete. Complete, because divine.* Humanity and Deity connected, constituting a Righteousness which is our only security, a Righteousness acceptable, because ordained of God, the sinner's plea.

In this passage the doctrine of supererogation and its necessary consequence the meritoriousness of our actions considered in themselves, is openly controverted. Yet to this doctrine one great division of the christian church rigidly adheres. This teacher's mode of preaching unity is like that now in fashion in the political world, "think as you please, provided you think with the establishment."

We have dwelt longer on this sermon than its appearance seemed to require, because it is not to be considered as a detached essay, but as the commencement of a larger treatise. We have been circumstantial in pointing out an inconsistency, because it must have pervaded the whole volume. The author has departed from his professions; he has erred; his error however is not to be attributed to a design to mislead, but to a self confidence too commonly indulged, which leads us to think our own opinions not only right but exclusive. He ought to have considered that every one claims the same privilege, and that the pertinacious assertion of disputed opinions, instead of inducing assent must confirm opposition, and even force it into obstinacy.

To a reader who thinks with the author, we doubt not the sermon may convey some useful reflections.

Some grammatical and idiomatical inaccuracies occur, which might have escaped observation, had not the author introduced himself in the secondary character of a writer on English Grammar. In two places we find the verb "to impress," used in a neuter sense.

We have also noticed the following passages.

"Which (pleasures) are succeeded by the most bitter consequences, and (are) the precursors of our ruin."

"They might expect a similar treatment."

These are trivial errors: but we certainly have a right to say to the physician, "Heal thyself."

Woman: or Ida of Athens, by Miss Owenson, 4 vols. 12mo. p.p. 979. Longman, Hurst, and Rees, London, 1809.

Continued from P. 143, No. VII.

THE capture of Osmyn gives our heroine another opportunity of displaying herself. She is described as wandering through the scene of carnage to discover his body; at length on discovering the truth, she again goes to the Acropolis (Anglice, the citadel) to plead in his favour.—But her application now is not equally successful. She is brought to the Aga, and induced by the hopes of saving Osmyn from the tortures with which he is threatened to consent to marry his persecutor. But that very night the Aga's daughter, who was in love with Osmyn contrives his escape, and flies with him to Russia. Ida escapes to her father's, and there receives the intelligence that her hated spouse is no more, having been put to death by the suspicious government which he served.

A new character now appears, and gives rise to a train of incidents which form in our opinion the only entertaining part of these volumes; yet it is a hazardous pleasure. The style and sentiments are of that enervating, voluptuous tendency, which excite emotions the most dangerous. The pleader in the cause of virtue, for such is the character to which we conceive Miss Owenson wished to attain, has assumed the air and habiliments of the most dangerous auxiliary of vice.

An Englishman resident at Naples, a professed sensualist, of the most refined order, goes to Athens in quest of those pleasures which variety alone can furnish to the votary of the senses. In the summary description of character, Miss Owenson has merit; al-

though she constantly fails in its development, as it incidentally displays itself through the circumstances of the narration. The present personage may serve as an example of her talent.

"The Englishman was born of the younger branch of an illustrious family. He was impressed with an extravagant sense of the value of rank, because rank in the early part of his life had been his sole possession; ardent from nature, luxurious by education, he pursued the path to opulence merely as the medium by which pleasure (in its common acceptation) was to be obtained; he pursued it like a man of elevated notions in political career, and pursued it with a success no less the result of his talents than of his fortune. The evil chances of education had given him many faults, but they had also left him many virtues; the leading traits of excellence which illuminated his character were all his own; and the leading vice which shadowed its brightness, owed existence to the influence of woman. Of an ardent, impetuous, and affectionate character; at an age when the receptive power of men are so eager for impression, and so fatally capable of rendering that impression decisive, his heart had been first touched, his passions had been first awakened, by one who with more art than beauty, more ability than principle, and more passion than sentiment, charmed his imagination by her brilliancy, his self-love by her ardour, and deceived his hopes and betrayed his confidence, by that train of conduct, which depraved feeling and vitiated habits inevitably produce in woman.

"With a general and passionate admiration, united to a total want of esteem for women, his opinion of the sex was founded on the first impression given him by an individual: he had therefore never married, and never intended to marry. He laughed at the man who voluntarily threw his honour into the keeping of a being, who (drawing the inference from his own experience) he believed so seldom capable of preserving her own; he laughed at the man who voluntarily hung a chain over his pleasures, and devoted himself to anxiety at home,

while enjoyment solicited his acceptance abroad : he believed that the woman whom prudence would induce him to marry, his taste would impel him to decline ; and that her whom he would adore as a mistress, he could never depend on as a wife.

He was now no longer young ; and though he had seen much of the world, though he too generally took his sentiments from the high, but frequently false tone of the circle in which he lived, yet something of the untarnished gloss of nature still remained. The ardent feelings of his being, frequently deposed the factitious principles of his character ; and the warm impulse of a moment sometimes overthrew the artful system of a year. Although he had observed much, he had reflected, he had combined but little ; and his life, gay and polished as his manners, while it pointed his wit, while it sharpened his shrewdness, rendered him more alive to a foible than observant of a quality, more attracted by the living manners as they rose, than attentive to the human passions as they unfolded themselves, under the pressure and influence of human wants."

An entire volume is occupied in relating the rise and progress of his acquaintance with Ida, whom he attempts to seduce ; but though he caught her imagination, which is described as very inflammable, he failed in interesting her heart, and returns baffled and disappointed to England.

The remainder of the tale may be summed up in a few words. By one of these violent exertions of authority too common in despotic governments, Ida's father is forced to quit Athens with his family ; they escape to England. On their arrival there they find that their banker has failed. They are of course reduced to extreme distress, from which they are at length relieved by the Englishman, to whose house Ida in a manner almost miraculous to any one but a heroine of a novel, had strayed while looking for relief for her father who was dying in prison. He afterwards maintains Ida and her young brothers, at his own expense. In this place we must stop to comment upon an inconsistency of cha-

racter. A man, versed as the Englishman is described to be in the female character, would never have had recourse to the gross expedient of making himself the open protector of a high-spirited woman, whose heart he had failed to conquer, and whose eyes were open to his designs. So many ways would have presented themselves of relieving her distresses in a more delicate manner, which she would not have declined, because ignorant of their tendency, and which when their author was discovered, would have laid her under a weight of obligation almost impossible to be shaken off from the manner in which it was conferred, that we are surprized at the negligence or want of invention in the author, in not having recourse to them. As she tells the story, Ida very naturally rejects the proffered bounty, is again reduced into the greatest distress and again relieved by the interference of a relation who unexpectedly appears in England. She is now restored to rank and opulence. The Englishman abjures his former infidelity of woman, and proposes marriage ; his offers are again rejected. Osmyn now appears under the character of a Russian Officer, and after an eclaireissement which commences at a masquerade, that amusement so happily invented for the relief of distressed writers of romance, she marries the object of her first attachment and settles with him in Russia.

The style of this work is very defective, abounding in a superfluity of words, which instead of contributing to accuracy or ornament, obscures the sentiment by distracting the mind. An excessive affectation, displaying itself in forced sentiments and distorted expressions, pervades the whole. To understand a modern novel, an accurate knowledge of the language in which it is written is insufficient ; French, Italian and Spanish are indispensable. Miss Owenson, determined to leave all competitors behind, goes still farther. To read Ida, we must understand Greek ; though in some cases she is so complaisant to the ignorance of her fair readers, as to tack the explanation to the tail of the learned word, so that a page of her book might sometimes

be mistaken for a new invented vocabulary, or a misplaced column of *spelling and explaining*. For instance, take the following description of Ida's dress.

"Her drapery pure and light as drifted snow, resembled in its folds that of the priestesses who form the procession in the metopes of the temple of Minerva; a thousand shining jetty curls were drawn through the antique *ekriphale* or *golden net* that enclosed her luxuriant hair, the simple *anadema* bound *its wreath* across her snowy forehead, and the *Astropeplon*, or *embroidered scarf*, *caressed* her neck and shoulders, or floated lightly on the passing gale: she touched at intervals the *cythara* on which she leaned, and blushed, and smiled, and glowed, is all the *conscious triumph* of youth, of beauty and inspiring love."

A variety of singular expressions may also be pointed out.

"*Luxuriated* in that enjoyment, which Ionian gales might still bestow,"—

"The admiration he excited became at once the reward and *stimulation* of his talents,"—"Nor caust thou ever *obliviate*."—

We also find the word which an uninstructed Englishman would call *sensual*, in one place written *sensuous*, and in another, no doubt for the sake of variety *sensurous*.

But what we think principally exceptionable, is the incorrect notions of religion and morality interspersed through these pages.

"Nature," says Miss Owenson, in the character of Ida's preceptor; "nature has only given us desires, whose gratification is enjoyment; but society in its gradual estrangement from her dictates, engenders passions which become the scourge of those who cherish them; man, naturally beneficent, becomes a tyrant—man, naturally free, becomes a slave; and religion, which is of nature, conveyed through the senses to the soul, awakening its gratitude, and commanding its adoration, becomes an incomprehensible dogma, propagated by cruelty and fanaticism, disgraced by human invention on every side, breaking the tie of human sympathy, scattering discord and disorder through nations, and imposing its relief by eternal terrors. In every

religion may be traced the arrogant faith of its own infallibility, and in the breast of every fanatic sectarian is established a secret inquisition by which the opinion of others is tried and condemned. On every side virtue and felicity are of nature; on every side vice and misery are of man.

This is the genuine doctrine of the School of Bridgetina Botheruin. We shall add but one more.

"Love is an involuntary affection; it resists the law of volition, and deprives the mind of that free agency which distinguishes it under the influence of other passions. *Every one loves as long as he can*; but the sentiment is not to be commanded into existence, nor is the period of its duration to be defined. It argues a profound ignorance of human nature, to expect eternal fidelity in a lover; and the woman who lives only to lament an inconstant, mistakes weakness and want of pride and of reflection for sensibility and virtue."

These words are the echo of Euphrosyne in *Comus*.

"All I ask of mortal man,
Is to love me while he can."

Let us now see what is adduced to palliate the defects of this work. We are told in the preface that the author "has been *necessitated* to compose with great rapidity," (we make no doubt of the rapidity of the composition, every page bears disgraceful proofs of it, but why necessitated we are not told) that "her little works have been always printed from an illegible manuscript in one country, while she was the resident of another; that she has written almost as many volumes as she has years; and that she is at once indolent and volatile in her literary character." We cannot, however, see the weight of these apologies. That the printing has been very carelessly supervised, these are sufficient proofs; were it otherwise, we should not have seen the sun at one time setting to the east of Athens, in the *Euxine*, instead of to the west, in the *Gulph of Engia*. Nor would we have seen a pile of runs illuminated at midnight by the rays of the *morn* (the moon.) But we see no reason why the book was not printed where the author could

have had an opportunity of preparing it for the public eye. We would recommend it to this young lady, for by her own mode of calculation, we guess her to be about seventeen, instead of pleading one fault in palliation of another, or setting up her volumes as mile-stones to mark her progress thro'

life, either to relinquish the profession of author altogether, or subject her imagination to the discipline of meditation and reflection, which alone can qualify her for the honourable but arduous task of instructing her sex, by setting before them a model of WOMAN for their imitation. Q

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

DURING the course of this month the scene of politics has been totally changed. Spain, which had so long attracted the observation of Europe, is now forgotten, or only considered as the scene of a complicated mixture of glory and disgrace; glory

to the hands that acted, disgrace on the heads that conceived the project of its liberation from a foreign yoke, to replace it under the torporific influence of its former despotism. A power already humbled and supposed to be prostrate at the feet of Bonaparte

parte, is said to be preparing to lay claim to its former high rank among nations; while scenes in which we are more immediately interested call our attention forcibly nearer home. As to the first mentioned of these countries, the vital spark of effectual resistance seems to have been extinguished by the embarkation of the British Army, and the unequal contest still partially maintained against the conqueror, is more the result of blind despair than consistent well concerted resistance. Did any hope remain, that Spain by its internal resources could extirpate the extrinsic evil which has penetrated into its vitals, the fate of Saragosa must dissipate that shadow of consolation. This city, after an obstinate contest against the concentrated forces of the French, after maintaining itself against the united efforts of famine, fire, and the sword, with a courage deserving of a better support, has at length been compelled to capitulate. Twenty thousand of its defenders are said to have perished, and nearly the same number to have surrendered, with a choice of engaging in the service of their new sovereign, or being carried as prisoners of war into France; Palafox is said to have died either of wounds, or of fatigue, and Bonaparte is thus freed from the most pertinacious of his adversaries. Romana, and the Duke del Infantado, it is reported, are not only able to hold out, but have commenced offensive operations, at the head of numerous bodies of Spaniards. But English credulity has been so often gulled with these bombastic statements of mock-musters, and paper levies, that little stress can be laid on such reports. In Cadiz the spirit of resistance still exists. Situate at the remotest extremity of Spain, under the more immediate protection of the English, whose marine affords the opportunity of throwing in supplies, and holds out the prospect of ultimate safety to the garrison in case of extremities; it is not surprising that it should be the focus in which all the dispersed rays of opposition should concentrate.

But the strongest proof of the complete subjugation of this country, is the departure of Bonaparte and the

greater part of his troops. He is not apt to leave his work half done.—The desultory warfare still maintained by unconnected parties of the Spaniards, seem to be considered by him as the agitation of the seas after a storm, which requires only time to subside. When in the plenitude of his power he poured his hosts over the Pyrenees, and swept away every trace of opposition as he advanced, he did not trust solely to that mighty military machine whose operations he directed. He appears to have put in action springs more secret, but not less effectual. He divided the people from the nobility; and by an extraordinary political mainœuvre, the most absolute monarch of the continent, who invaded the country with the avowed intention of forcing a sovereign on the people in opposition to the rights of the hereditary ruler and their own choice, appeared as the assertor of the civil and religious liberties of the people, while their ally, though in possession of these blessings, was the supporter of the old system of monarchical and monastic tyranny. Neither do the Spanish Nobility appear to have been proof against the temptation to which the insidious policy of their enemy exposed them. Perhaps during their short lived government they discerned that their darling privileges were about to be encroached on by those they had hitherto held in subjection; that the people conscious of their power, would claim their rights, and they therefore preferred to be petty despots at home beneath a foreign master, than be the independent rulers of a free people.

Whatever may be the general opinion respecting the Spanish peninsula, it is certain that the English ministry do not despair. Undismayed by former misfortunes, a formidable armament is again fitting out for the assistance of our new allies. It is to be hoped that their plan of operations will be better digested, and that the flower of these nations will not again be sent out on what is vulgarly called "a man of war's cruise," an expedition without design or destination. It is indeed but a bad omen of future success, that the whole of the former expedition lies still involved in

mystery; the ministry carefully avoid giving a full and explicit account of the whole affair; not even the returns of the losses suffered have as yet been published; and we are left to judge of the magnitude of these from the whispers of individuals, and the magnified reports of common fame. Yet even from these something may be collected, sufficient to indicate the probable result of the projected equipment, if directed by the same men, and on the same principles, or rather the same want of principles, which terminated in the failure of the former. For the employment of the British force under Sir J. Moore, three plans were proposed, one by Sir H. Dalrymple, another by Sir J. Moore, and another by the Supreme Junta. According to the first, the troops were to act in Biscay, forming as it were the left wing of a great army opposed to the French at the foot of the Pyrenees, and supported in the van by garrisons, strong forts, and new native levies. By the second, the South of Spain was to be the scene of action, and Seville, Grenada, and Cadiz, the principal *points d'appui* for our troops. In the third, it was proposed to send a British force to Catalonia. The British ministry adopted none of these: but by sending our force into the heart of Leon, while the Spanish forces acted in two unconnected bodies in different parts under Blake and Castanos, allowed the enemy to pursue his usual tactic of defeating each body in detail. *Divide et Impera* is the Machiavelian maxim for conquest. We have adopted it; but not altogether; we choose the former part and leave the latter to our enemy: we divide and they conquer.

GERMANY is again about to assume the appearance it had in all the former wars of Europe, that of being the great centre of action. A fresh rupture between Austria and France is the signal for another great continental convulsion. The secret causes of this change in the sentiments of the former of these powers, are still unknown, nor has it yet been declared whether she takes the field as aggressor, or to prevent the encroachment of the latter. A short retrospect of past events may serve to throw some light on this subject. At the time of the Spanish

insurrection, Austria had manifested a hostile disposition, or at least prepared to increase and strengthen her means of defence. These proceedings excited the suspicions of the French ruler, and he immediately took steps to counteract any bad effects which might result from her hostility at a time that his power seemed to totter by the convulsions in the west. He wished to confirm his connections with the Emperor of Russia. The meeting at Erfurth took place; the result of which was such as to remove any apprehensions which he might have been under from Austria. He was now empowered to direct all his efforts against his new enemy. The consequence was, the immediate dissipation of the Spanish armies, the expulsion of the English, and the subjugation of the western peninsula. Having accomplished this object as far as he thought consistent with the employment of his forces, he would naturally wish to free himself from any apprehensions of hostility from Austria, and to deprive that power of the means of retarding his designs in any other part to which he may be hereafter obliged to turn his arms. Hence it appears that Austria is forced into this war for her own preservation. It is almost impossible that she would have willingly lain dormant during the late great struggle, when in possession of means to create such a powerful diversion in favour of the enemies of Bonaparte, and should now voluntarily engage in a single-handed contest, against a power whom its late triumphs have swelled up to a gigantic magnitude. Great as is the versatile imbecility of continental councils, powerful as is the influence of British gold, such a proceeding would argue a degree of obstinate stolidity inexplicable even on those motives. The die however is cast; war is already declared, and it now only remains to consider what resources the devoted power has to screen itself from this dreadful scourge, this besom of destruction which has swept so many empires from the face of the earth. We have heard out of one. The Archduke—in his name, seem to centre all the means of defence. Of men, indeed there are always sufficient for slaughter in Germany; but from what store are the armies

of war to be furnished? an exhausted treasury, and unfurnished arsenals; a dejected population; and not a single ally: for on Great Britain she can surely reckon little after the occurrences in Spain. The prospect affords but little hope to the friends of the old order of things, nor can much better be hoped for from the new. Much must depend on the part taken by Russia. She is such a gainer by the alliance with France, that a change in her political relations is scarcely to be expected. Our unfortunate Ally the king of Sweden, after being deprived of all the eastern part of his dominions, is forced to throw himself into the arms of his inveterate enemy: it is even reported that a serious insurrection of the people has occurred in that country. Irritated by the war into which they have been forced for causes in which the country had so little share, and could derive nothing but calamity and disgrace, they wish to force their king to other measures, and even to reclaim those rights of which they had been deprived by his predecessor. Other accounts describe this rising as of a local nature, and say that it has already been suppressed.

FRANCE, however, does not confine herself to continental operations. Her movements towards the east have excited a considerable degree of alarm and agitation in India. It has been said that after the peace of Tilsit a large body of the French army had directed its course through the southern provinces of Asiatic Russia, with a view of invading our territories in that quarter. Of this nothing farther has been heard. But it is certain that every means are used to establish a friendly intercourse between France and Persia, evidently with the intention of facilitating the views now apprehended; and a considerable degree of alarm and agitation has exhibited itself in the northern provinces of India. While England retains the command of the sea, the permanent conquest of that extensive country can never be accomplished by an insulated force, whose strength incessantly crumbling away by the nature of the climate, can be recruited but slowly and uncertainly, by the circuitous course necessary to be taken by land. But enough may be done to throw the

company's affairs into great confusion, and to accumulate on them an increase of expenditure, which in addition to the deprivation of the customary taxes from those provinces that will be the seat of war, will be suddenly felt in the present exhausted state of their revenue.

The favourable turn which the politics of TURKEY have taken may be some check on the ambitious views of the French on this side. A treaty of alliance has been effected with the new government through the agency of Mr. Adair, whose diplomatic talents seem to have been universally admired, in effecting it. We know not what dependence can be placed on the fluctuating councils of this distracted empire, governed as it is by an ignorant and lawless soldiery; nor is it probable that the assistance of the English will be of much avail, if the Emperor of Russia, freed from a war in the north, seriously turns his thoughts to its dismemberment. In such a case the new formed alliance will only contribute to precipitate its fall by offering an excuse to the combined masters of the Continent to invade a nation which has deserted them and formed an alliance with their most formidable enemy.

The remains of the French fleet also, which has so long continued in port, has at length ventured to shew itself. A squadron of eleven ships of the line with some frigates eluding the vigilance of the British admiral, lately quitted Brest, with the supposed intention of raising the blockade of L'Orient. Their destination however was soon discovered, and they did not effect their escape into a place of security without loss. Three of their frigates and one line of battle ship were run ashore and destroyed, with little loss on our side. It has been since discovered that another squadron of six sail of the line have about the same time sailed from L'Orient in a southerly direction. Hopes were for some time entertained that they had been intercepted by Admiral Duckworth: these however have been disappointed. Their object must be of great importance, as they passed a British convoy without even attempting any captures. It is supposed their destination is for the Spanish settlements

of South America, and that they carry thither the *ci-devant* royal family of Spain.

Here are grounds for fresh political speculations. If such be the object, and that it must be of the first consequence, the circumstances of the expedition leave little room to doubt, we cannot but think that another enemy is about to be raised against us, under the appearance of our present ally. It was the original plan of Bonaparte to force the Spanish court into a voluntary exile into their trans-Atlantic dominions. Such a step would not only produce an apparent abdication of that monarch, but would afford an excuse for placing the crown on a new head, and establishing another branch of his family in one of the most powerful dependencies of his new-formed dynasty. The separation of the colonies from the mother country, which would be the inevitable result of such procedure, by weakening each, would facilitate his designs against both. When once master of old Spain, he was sensible that he had the support of two powerful parties in the new seat of government; the one what is commonly called the French party, the other those, whose interests would lead them to wish for a re-union of the disorganised parts under a new head, rather than a perpetual banishment from the land of their nativity, under their ancient sovereign.

The proceedings in Madrid previous to the insurrection, prevented this from being attended with the same success as attended a similar attempt in Portugal, and led to the subsequent scene of slaughter and misery in which we have borne too large a part. The present transportation of the king, environed, as he must be, by a band of satellites, the private agents and emissaries of France, cannot fail to give support to the French party already existing under Liniers, and to confirm the animosities against the English, which arising from a long continued course of religious and national hatred has been aggravated to the highest degree, by the late attempt upon Buenos Ayres. This, it must be confessed, is but conjecture, resting however on well-founded probabilities, on the well-known character of Bonaparte, and on that of the nation now our ally,

which name will be retained so long, and no longer, than is suitable to their own self interest.

The only foreign occurrence relative to England, is the taking of the French West India Island of Martinique. Late accounts state that the island has surrendered, with the exception of a single fort, where the French have collected all their forces, and seem determined to make a final stand. Of its speedy reduction little doubt is entertained.

With respect to internal occurrences, the great cause which engaged, during the last month, the undivided attention of the nation is at length decided; decided in a manner such as every friend to his country could have wished. It is the calm and dignified triumph of reason and justice over power, abuse and corruption. It is singular to trace out the unexpected means by which this transaction has been completely unravelled. To say nothing of the cause from which it originated, the disgraceful connection of a prince of the blood with a professed wanton, and the still more disgraceful refusal to pay the hire of her guilty services, though even here we may find something to affect a material part of the evidence *voluntarily* presented to the parliament, for perhaps it is not universally known in this country, that in the marriage contract as performed according to the rites of the church of England, the man promises to the woman, not indeed *on the honour of a prince* but *on the oath of a christian*, "to love her, comfort her, honour and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other, keep only unto her, so long as they both shall live," setting this aside, let us take a summary survey of the inquiry.

A private country gentleman unknown to, and unsupported by any party, advances to charge the king's son, the commander in chief of all the British army, with corruption in the exercise of his official duties, and openly states the several cases which have come to his knowledge. An universal emotion is excited; the servants of the crown, and the friends of the Duke, eagerly call for investigation; already they exult in anticipated triumph, and enjoy the prospect of

ruin and disgrace about to fall on the accuser's head. The independent members are cautious and doubtful. They are conscious that inquiry is necessary, yet fearful of success against such odds. Mr. Wardle stands almost alone, brow-beaten, threatened and derided. He is told that his adversary stands high in the opinion of the people and the Army; it is hinted that he is the dupe of a conspiracy formed against the character of the house of Brunswick; it is almost insinuated that he is one of the party. He is openly told, that infamy must attach somewhere.—The tongue that spoke these words did not understand the awful portent it uttered. The inquiry is invited, forced on. One of the few who really wish for investigation proposes that the witnesses should be examined on oath. This is a demand too reasonable to be refused.—Yet compliance might be dangerous.—A noble lord, too well known to this country, thinks the emergency worthy of his interference. Like Belial, "prepared to perpe.ex maturest counsels" he rises.—

I should be much for solemn oaths, O
Peers,

As not behind in hate, but that I find—

This *but* decides the question, and the witnesses are to answer on their honour. Yet this mode of inquiry forced on the house by the friends and advocates of the accused party, for the ministerial party, though judges, made no secret of their bias, has led to discoveries which otherwise might have still remained unveiled, had the rigid and awful bond of an oath checked that freedom of answer and desultory mode of examination which then would have been inadmissible. A woman is brought forward; she is harassed by every kind of mental torture that the ingenuity of thorough-paced legal inquisitors, and keen hunters after contradictory evidence can invent. What is the consequence? does she invalidate her own testimony? no; but in self defence, in vindication of her own veracity, she reluctantly produces papers, proved to be genuine, directly contradicting the evidence of men high in office, and the solemn word of honour of a prince. The witnesses for the accused force them-

selves on the house. Does their evidence acquit their friend? On the contrary one of them is convicted of perjury. To conclude, after a debate protracted to a length almost unprecedented, the house divided on the question, "whether in consequence of a system of corruption and undue influence having been carried on in the army, of which it is not said that the Duke of York had any knowledge, it was prudent to continue him in the command of the army." The numbers for the motion, were 199, against it, 294, leaving a majority in favour of the Duke, or of the Ministers, for it is indifferent, of 95. But it must be observed that the Minority were independent country gentlemen: of what the majority was composed, it is needless to mention. Other propositions were then made in order to decide on the quantum of royal guilt or innocence, when the Duke cut the knot which his friends could not untie, by resigning his situation: his resignation was accepted, and in this compromise all parties acquiesced. On considering these proceedings, the details of which would occupy a book larger than one of our volumes, every unprejudiced mind must reflect on the excellency of our Constitution which brings the most exalted offender before the bar of Justice; and on the hands to which that constitution is entrusted, which can so skillfully avert the arm of Justice when uplifted. Within these three years, we have seen three counts of honour held; their efficacy will not excite a very general wish for their more general establishment. In the first was tried military peculation, and the defendant was acquitted *upon the honour* of a NOBLEMAN: in the second, military disability, and the defendant was cleared *upon the honour* of an OFFICER, in the third, military corruption, and the defendant cleared himself *upon the honour* of a PRINCE. The letter of the infatuated Charles, to his too credulous friend and minister, Strafford, may teach posterity the credit due to the word of a King; it remains still to calculate, in comparing the weight of the two pledges, how much the superior solemnity in the present case, can over-

balance the dignity of the character in the former.

The political relations of America with Britain have been hitherto unnoticed because they principally affect this country. The Embargo may impoverish England, but it must starve Ireland. Our hopes were highly raised a few days ago, from a communication said to be officially delivered by Mr. Foster to the Gentlemen of the Linen trade of Ireland, that the Embargo was removed, thus holding out a flattering prospect of a sufficiency of flax for the employment of our Northern population, for the next year. What then was our disappoint-

ment to find that this was but the first half of a fact, whose occurrence was long since expected, but whose operation could have little effect on our present difficulties, that the Embargo was removed to make room for the non-intercourse act, which equally with the former, prevents our communication with America, during the operation of the Orders in Council, but leaves the trade of their country open to neutrals. The cause of such a mutilated report we know not at present, and must suspend our curiosity, till next month's changes can explain it.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

PETITION FROM BANBRIDGE, &c.

THE following petition deserves a place in the pages of the Belfast Magazine, as it will shew that public spirit, though extinct among some classes of the community, still prevails among others, who venture to come forward to state their grievances to the legislature in manly terms. The direct object of the petition is happily obtained by the defeat of the plan of allowing distillation from grain in Ireland. But the other subject, the want of the seed, to which they incidentally, though spiritedly alluded, still remains to threaten us with approaching calamity.

"To the Honorable the house of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the principal inhabitants of the town of Banbridge and the neighbouring parishes of Seavick, Tullylish, Donougheloney, Aghbeg, and Magharally, in the County of Down,

Sheweth,

That your petitioners have heard with unfeigned concern of the intention expressed by his Majesty's ministers to insert a clause in the corn distress bill, now before your honorable house, to remove the existing prohibition of the distillation from grain in Ireland, inasmuch as they conceive, that the intended clause, if enacted, must be highly injurious in its effects, to

the interests of this part of the united Kingdom.

Your petitioners beg leave to state that the produce of the last grain crop in Ireland, has been by no means so abundant, as has been represented, that the prices of provisions are higher now, than they were when the prohibition took place, nay, higher than it is recollected, they have ever been, at this season of the year in Ireland, with the single exception of the distressful spring of 1801. That these prices have lately increased from the supposed probability, that the prohibition may be discontinued, and moreover that the great article of food in Ireland, potatoes, are now selling in the markets far beyond the average rate of common years.

Considering, too, that all the articles of prime necessity, in our manufactures and trades, are dear and scarce, above all, that the supply of flax for the ensuing year is such as to excite the strongest apprehension, that a total stagnation may take place in our staple manufacture, by which hundreds of thousands of our population are enabled to procure their daily food, which they can with difficulty obtain for their families, at the present rates of the markets, your petitioners are induced most earnestly to implore that your honorable house may pause, and weighing the calamitous results likely to arise from its enactment, prevent the introduction of the clause, removing the prohibition of the distillation from grain in Ireland, into the

aforesaid bill. If the existing laws against illicit distillation have been hitherto found insufficient to check that baneful evil, your petitioners have every confidence, that in the wisdom of parliament, means can be devised of effectually crushing a practice, which surely ought not to be beyond the control of a powerful, vigilant and energetic government."

On Wednesday last, a ploughing match was decided in a field of Mr. Samuel Moorhead's, at Ballynahinch, for a wager on who should make the best ploughing. The parties were, Mr. John Graham, Mr. John McClelland, Mr. Samuel Moorhead, and Mr. Richard McClelland, all respectable farmers of that neighbourhood. Each appeared on the ground with their horses, plough, and tacklings, in excellent order; and in two hours time ploughed half a rood of lea land that had been previously laid off for each of them, in so masterly a manner as to give entire satisfaction to a large concourse of neighbouring farmers, who had assembled to witness the laudable contest.

The prize was adjudged to Mr. John Graham, for the superior neatness of his furrows; and the other candidates had also the merit of doing theirs so well, as to make it difficult for judges to determine.

As such trials of skill would be an excellent mode of disseminating the knowledge acquired by proficient in this important branch; it would be highly useful to this great agricultural country, should they become more frequent.

On Monday three women, of the names of Cunningham, Charters, and Farrel, went into a shop in High-street, soliciting money to bury Cunningham's sister, who they said had died in the afternoon. A gentleman who belongs to the Strangers' Friend Society, being then in the shop, insisted to go with them to where the corpse lay, and which they said was in the Plantation. When near that place, however, they confessed they had merely made up the story to raise some money, and refused to go farther with him. Such impostors deserve exemplary punishment.

ANTRIM....Married....Mr. J. Brown, of Ballyearl, to Miss Hughes of Jordantown. The Rev. C. H. Crookshank, to Miss Harriet Jones, of Moneyglass. Mr. F. Lepper, to Miss Bryson, both of Belfast. Mr. J. Gordon, of Belfast, to Miss Holmes, daughter of the Rev. W. Holmes, of Island Magee.

Died....At Belfast, Mr. W. Gordon. Aged 16, Mr. J. Kelso. Suddenly in the

23d, year of her age, Miss M. Donaldson. The Rev. S. Patton, late Minister of the dissenting congregation of Moneytea. In Belfast, on the 7th ult. F. M'Evoy, printer.

ARMAGH....Married....Mr. J. Campbell, of Keady, to Miss Shields, of Caryclean.

TYRONE....Married....A. Austin, esq. of Miltown, to Miss E. Pemberton of Dublin.

DONOGALL....Married....E. Harrison, esq. of Buncrana, to Miss I. Darby.

Died....At Dundrum, Miss E. Blackwell, of Belfast.

LEINSTER.

The following melancholy accident occurred a few days since in the vicinity of Camolin, in the county of Wexford;—Edward Flinn, stucco-man, having left his lodgings early on Wednesday morning, in order to finish some work for a gentleman in the neighbourhood, was found apparently dead on the side of the road about 11 o'clock same day. The body was buried the following evening.—The circumstances of sudden death, and hasty interment, having a suspicious appearance, a magistrate ordered the corpse to be taken up; when it was found he had turned in the coffin and bled profusely out of the mouth and nose. From the above circumstances it appears the man had been buried alive.

MEATH....Married....R. M'Guire, esq. of New Grange, to Miss R. Chester of Drogheda.

DUBLIN.....Married....In Eccles-street, Mr. J. Jackson, to Miss Sarah M'Creight, Walkenshaw's-grove, Co. Armagh.

Died....Edward Lysaght, esq. barrister at law; a gentleman well known for his convivial talents and literary acquirements: a short time before his death he was appointed one of the Justices of Police for the city of Dublin, with a salary of 500*l.* per annum. He did not hold this situation long enough to ensure a provision for his widow and family; a subscription has however been generously opened by the gentlemen of the law, and upwards of 1000*l.* has been already received for this benevolent purpose. Mr. Thomas McDonnell, proprietor of the Hibernian Journal. On Saturday night last, at his residence at Hampton, in the County of Dublin, Alexander Hamilton, esq. aged 44, eldest son of the late Hon. Baron Hamilton. By his decease the office of High Sheriff of the County of Dublin has become vacant. Alas! how uncertain is this life! It is scarcely a month since Mr. Hamilton was sworn into the office of sheriff, in the prime of life? His death was occasioned by a fever, taken immediately afterwards, which had such an effect on his nerves and frame as to

precipitate him into an early grave. This gentleman was eminently useful by following the example of his ever-to-be-lamented father, by promoting the internal trade and commerce of his country.—The town of Balbriggan, which was founded by the late Baron Hamilton, furnishes, in its prosperity, an ample proof of the beneficial results of industry, the seeds of which were originally sown by him in the establishment of the cotton manufacture, and have since spread themselves to the amelioration and happiness of thousands. This branch of trade certainly made more rapid advances in this country under the protection and influence of the late Baron Hamilton, than any other individual before or since his time. Mr. Hamilton inherited many other of the good dispositions and amiable qualities of his father. As a representative in the House of Commons, in which he sat from the age of 22, until the dissolution of the Irish Parliament, he was of unshaken integrity, and on the last great question which agitated that House, his patriotism shone conspicuous, for differing in sentiments upon that occasion with his Noble patron, he resigned the representation of Belfast, and with it his lucrative place of Cursitor of the Court of Chancery.

MUNSTER.

A most atrocious and inhuman murder was committed on Monday night the 13th ult. on the Dublin road, about one mile from Kilworth, at a place named Barnavaher, by a man of the name of James Hickey, farmer, who had married a young woman about a year ago, the daughter of an honest, industrious man. On the above Monday Hickey left his work to go drink at a public-house near him, kept by one Doran. He did not return home until a late hour at night, and when he did, he desired his unfortunate wife to get up, and to let him in, and get him his supper. His younger brother, who lay in the house, desired her not to stir, but she dreading the anger of a husband who had repeatedly used her ill, got up to let him in, and was about getting his supper, when the villain said he had lost his great coat, and desired his wife to put on her shoes, that she may cwith him in search of it, with which she eluctantly complied. He first took her to a field, on pretence of looking for the coat, when the innocent woman thought she observed a lightlike fire, and expressed her apprehensions, but he desired her not to be frightened, it was nothing, though the villain had at that time missed fire at her! He then took her on the road in search of the coat, and proceeded some distance until they came to a deep pool of water, the villain pointed to it, saying

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it was there he lost it, and dreadful to relate, as the poor woman stooped to look for the coat, he fired a shot at her, and lodged fourteen or fifteen slugs in her arm and side; the wretched woman languished until the following Thursday, and then expired, and to add to the enormity of this unnatural murder, the unfortunate woman was six months pregnant. A Coroner's inquest was held on the body, by Richard Foot, esq. and a verdict was found of wilful murder against James Hickey. The inhuman monster has absconded.

TIPPERARY.....*Married*....Lord Viscount Bernard, son to the Earl of Bandon, to Miss Broddrick, daughter to the Archbishop of Cashel.

CONNAUGHT.

A few days ago, Mr. Allen, of Moneyvey, county of Galway, walked into the park of Mr. French about some business with some of the labourers. The gate keeper, one Holmes, desired him not to go that way; Mr. Allen said he would, and so walked off. Holmes said he would shoot him if he did not turn back, and then ran for his gun in a great fury, with which he followed Mr. Allen, but before he got within shot of him, he was struck dead himself, and buried a day or two after!

BRITISH.

At twelve o'clock on Friday night, a most tremendous fire broke out in the south-west angle of the great quadrangle of Christ-Church College, Oxford, which in a short time consumed the whole of Professor White's apartments, and some adjacent rooms. The fire originated in the rooms of one of the members who was then absent. Dr. White was in such a paralytic state that he was obliged to be carried out of the house; he has lost all his valuable library and original manuscripts. The great hall was with difficulty saved. The flames raged with such vehemence till six o'clock the next morning, that it was with great difficulty the engines could prevent it from spreading. The great reservoir, in the middle of the quadrangle, was soon emptied, and it was some time before a supply of water could be procured. The Oxford volunteers also attended to protect the property. The amount of the property consumed is not yet ascertained: one gentleman lost furniture to the amount of 500*l*. No particular accident has happened, if we except one gentleman, who dislocated his knee in attempting to force a door open. The ruins were in smoke all Saturday, and in the night some flames were again discovered, but the men on guard soon quenched them with one of the engines.

A monstrous sea snake similar to the one lately cast ashore in Orkney, has just

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been stranded on the coast of England, and persons properly qualified have been sent from London to examine and preserve this wonderful creature.

Died.—The Earl of Orford: he is succeeded by his son Lord Walpole, now Earl of Orford. In London, General Mordaunt, aged 79. The Right Hon. the Dowager Lady Ashburton. Mr. Richard Sterling, Nursery-man, after a long and painful illness, occasioned by smoking a pipe, which caused a cancer in his lip, by not waxing the end before he put it into his mouth.

JERSEY.

St. Hilier, February 27:—"Two seamen, J. Hubert and J. Bertant, natives of the island of Jersey, lately effected their escape from the horrors of a French prison. They had been confined, with several of their countrymen, for many months at Valenciennes. They eluded the vigilance of their guards, with two of their companions, who, from their imprudence in the neighbourhood of Caen, were apprehended, and sent back to their former habitation. Our two adventurers were near six weeks in travelling through the country between Valenciennes and Concale Bay. The greatest part of the journey was performed in the night-time, and in most inclement weather. Having gained the coast, they, after a long and cautious search, discovered a small boat, anchored about a mile from the shore—they waited till the tide had partly ebbed, when, fearful of being detected, if they waited till it was low-water, one of them swam off to the boat, which was without oars or sails; he consequently returned to his ship-mate disheartened and despairing; fortunately

they soon afterwards found the oars, which had been carried by the careful fisherman close to his hut, and, though nearly exhausted with famine and fatigue, they arrived in St. Catherine's Bay the evening of the second day after they embarked, having been three days and nights without any kind of sustenance. Their limbs were much swollen, and in some places ulcerated, in consequence of the hardships they had undergone.—They report that, understanding and speaking the language of the country, they in some places, when obliged to beg for food, represented themselves as conscripts who had deserted, and frequently were obliged to confess their real situation.—They assert that they were uniformly relieved to the full extent of the means of the charitable peasants to whom they applied, were often permitted to secret themselves in their cottages in the day-time, and were directed by their generous entertainers, in the safest routes, and where they might successfully apply for assistance. The lower orders in France are represented as being in the most wretched and oppressed condition, and unanimously averse to a continuation of the war; and it is certain that however much Bonaparte may be idolized by the army, he is detested by the people. When an English prisoner of war is detected in attempting to evade the miseries of a French prison, he is confined, sometimes for three or six months, at the pleasure of his gaoler, in a dark and damp dungeon, without bedding of any description, and his existence barely prolonged by a scanty allowance of bad black bread and water, nor is he permitted to have communication with any one but his keepers.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From February 20, till March 20, 1809.

SINCE last Report the weather has been extremely favourable for the business of the farm, and much work has been done by the plough, and in some districts a considerable progress made in sowing oats.

The wheat crops continue to look well, and a considerable degree of vegetation appears on the grass grounds, which if not checked by frosts, seem to promise an early supply of grass for the stock of young cattle.

The prices of grain and oatmeal have fallen a good deal since last Report. Potatoes are plenty and cheaper in the markets, the fears of scarcity have now subsided, and we trust it will be found that the crops of last year were not so defective as was apprehended.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

There is cause to congratulate the Public, that the fears of the distillation being permitted from grain in Ireland, as expressed in the last Month's Report, have not been realized. This job, for such there is good reason to believe it was, has been rendered abortive. The voice of the People against this measure has been well and publicly expressed. The reader is referred to page 231, for a petition on this subject from the inhabitants of Banbridge and the adjoining parishes, in which the ill

effects of permitting distillation from grain, are detailed in many terms, while they allude with great propriety to the distressing prospect of the want of Flaxseed. On looking back at the transactions which took place at the meeting of Linen-draperies at Armagh, a comparison of the two dissimilar modes adopted in the two cases, forcibly demands our attention. In the meetings respecting the distilleries, the mode of petitioning the legislature was adopted, and the measure of the man whom the majority of the meeting at Armagh addressed, and whom they attempted to constitute the guardian and tutelary genius of the Linen trade, was defeated. As might have been expected, no substantial relief in the latter case was experienced; but the cause of the grievance, the Orders in Council, remain in full force, without any attempts on his part to have them removed. His palliative measures shall be discussed presently. Good effects however have resulted from the meeting at Armagh. The danger to which we are fast approaching, was pointed out to the Public in the report of the proceedings of that meeting, the accuracy of which has remained uncontradicted and unquestioned, at least as far as appears to the Public. By the exertions of the minority of Linen-draperies the case has been brought before the two Houses of Parliament, and our suffering state alluded to, almost in the very words of "The Considerations." Success did not attend, but it is still consolatory that our case did not pass unnoted during the debates on the Orders in Council. It is impossible to admit the validity of the plea, that it was dangerous to expose our situation, and the inconveniences we were likely to sustain from the want of Flaxseed, to the powers with whom these nations are at war, or to the Americans, lest the latter should rise in their demands. All these dangers have been since announced in the official letters to, and from John Foster, and no greater risk attended in letting the truth be known three months ago, than at the present time. But the danger then appeared remote; and though the nature of man is properly defined to be that of a being who "looks before and after," yet distant dangers often pass unheeded; until pressed by immediate danger, we admit our former culpable inattention in not taking timely precautions.

It is extremely doubtful whether the bounty of five shillings per bushel on the first 50,000 bushels of foreign Flaxseed imported from Great Britain into Ireland, between the 8th of the present month and the 8th of the next month, will tend materially to increase our supply of this much-needed article; at least it is allowable to doubt the propriety of that part of the act, which takes the responsibility off the seller, on giving a certificate; and causes a consequent danger of bad seed being more readily imposed on the Public. In the present scarcity it is of the highest importance *that the seed sown should be of the very best quality*, as a defective crop in the small quantity likely to be sown would be highly distressing. The answer of the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer to the address, attempts to turn attention from the present distress, to a distant future prospect of relief, in raising hereafter our own Flaxseed. The old proverb "live horse and get grass in summer," affords slender consolation in the pinching season of winter, or during the cold blasts of spring. Yet, to promote this measure, the sum of £20,000 has been voted by the House of Commons, to be put under the direction of the Linen Board. Probably few will be willing to risk any part of the ensuing small crop of Flax on an experiment, which must as yet be considered as hazardous, and uncertain; notwithstanding strong hopes may be entertained, that in common years it may succeed. The distribution of this public money will however increase the patronage of the Linen Board, and of its efficient director.

It is not consistent with the plan of this Report to enter further into Parliamentary proceedings, than as far as relates to trade. The notice therefore of the debate in the House of Commons, on the address to relax in the system of the Orders in Council, must be brief. Samuel Whitbread, in a luminous speech, pointed out the pernicious consequences of this measure in strong terms; and thus alludes to its consequences on the state of the Linen and Cotton manufactures:

"If you wish to ascertain the extent of the injury inflicted on this country by these Orders, I call upon you to reflect upon the condition of the extensive town of Manchester, where out of forty-nine thousand persons employed before the issuing of those Orders, a great proportion are thrown out of bread; where of the numerous cotton-mills which were formerly employed, thirty-two are now idle, and six only at work. Cast your eyes to Ireland, and behold the state of its Linen

manufacture for the want of Flaxseed. Whence can it be supplied? Not from America or from the Baltic. And as to the probability of an advantageous intercourse with the Brazils, I am not so sanguine as to expect in the course, not alone of my life, but of many persons in this House younger than myself. But suppose that such advantage should arrive much sooner than I am induced to believe, what, I ask, is to be done for the supply of the passing year, or that which succeeds? But then we shall be told of what has been done by the embargo-breakers. What have they brought to this country? Some cotton wool. But have they brought Flaxseed?—Have they brought turpentine—and many other articles of essential importance to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain? I can see little ground of consolation in this system of embargo-breaking.”

Henry Grattan, in glowing and energetic language, alluded to the impolicy of alienating America from these countries, and mentioned the distressing situation of Ireland with regard to Flaxseed.

It is almost needless to add, that the motion for a change in the system of commercial warfare was negatived by a considerable majority.

The present state of public opinion in America receives elucidation from the fact, that the election of the President and Vice-president was carried by a majority of more than two to one in favour of the men who are supposed to be friendly to the measures of Jefferson's administration. This circumstance implies a strong sanction of popular feeling in their favour. The complaints from the News-papers published in some of their sea ports would lead us to suppose, if we gave credit to them, that the general sentiment was adverse to the embargo, and non-intercourse acts. But the cause of this mistake is well explained in the subjoined paragraph extracted from the Morning Chronicle:

“From the connection of this country, almost exclusively, with the commercial towns of America, there has been much mistatement as to the effect of the Embargo on the general interest of the United States. Great detriment has undoubtedly been occasioned to the proprietors of shipping, and to the dealers in produce, but those concerned in the infant manufactures of that country have largely benefited by the measure. We know that some of the articles, supplied hitherto by the labour and ingenuity of the artisans and mechanics of Birmingham, are now manufactured at Philadelphia, at the price at which they were before imported; and in the neighbourhood of that city one thousand additional houses have been lately built, on account of the flourishing condition of the inhabitants, from the extent of their interior trade.”

A private letter from New York, dated the 6th ult. and received by the last Packet, the Princess Amelia, confirms the preceding account, by shewing, that notwithstanding the distress in some maritime towns, in which the population is chiefly supported by foreign trade, the current of popular feeling is adverse to the British Orders. “We feel pretty severely on our trade the effects of our pending disputes with the wrangling European powers, and of our embargo in consequence for more than twelve months past, and now a severe winter is productive of much hardship to poor people here. We expect our embargo soon to be removed, but if there is not a previous agreement with England, it is much to be feared a war will be the consequence, which in my opinion, though not in that of many others, will make things still worse. Our political state you will have from our papers; but we have here parties as well as you, and unless you get the papers of both sides you will be misled.—The republican party, or those disposed to resist foreign aggression, are much the strongest.”

The sufferings of our transatlantic brethren afford however no compensation for our sufferings. In some cases, like ourselves, some may gain by the war, while the many lose. War, commercial war, not less than other warfare, produces innumerable mutual injuries, and when the account of sufferings is fairly balanced, leaves no reason for either side to rejoice.

“Ah! why will kings forget that they are men,

“And men that they are brethren!”

The price of Flaxseed is not yet fixed—Some American seed was lately sold in Dublin at 18½ guineas per hhd. Before this seed comes into the hands of the sower its price must necessarily be considerably increased. Fifteen guineas per barrel are asked for some Riga seed in Belfast. What a melancholy prospect! Nature supplies us liberally: but the people must pay dearly for the blunders of Statesmen. Such are the effects of Orders in Council!

Exchange during this month in Belfast has mostly rated from 5 to 5½ per cent for guineas, and from 7 to 7½ for Bank notes. Latterly on the 'Change of Belfast, the mode of having a rate of exchange also for Bank notes, has begun to prevail. The discount on notes is at 1½ to 1¼ per cent. Bank notes now form in Belfast the general medium in which the bills are made payable; consequently the demand for guineas is lessening, and the value of them decreasing. It remains yet to trace the effects of an increased supply of paper when the two additional Banks shall commence business.

The Irish administration have been a second time left in a minority in the Imperial Parliament, and the additional duty on malt negatived.

Further discussion has taken place in the House of Commons on the bounty to be granted on raising Irish flax-seed. Both sides generally agree in the propriety of making the experiment, but not without strong censure, from some of the speakers on the effects of the Orders in Council. One member (Horner) denominated them, one of those absurd systems of barbarous warfare, which went as far as possible to drive us back to the barbarism and impolicy, which marked the days of the Stuarts." Sir John Newport gave his sanction to the measure, as hoping it might secure Ireland from being hereafter dependent on other countries for the staple of her principal manufacture; but expressed a wish that care would be taken, *how the sum granted was expended.*

Since the foregoing Report has been drawn up, it appears that the Embargo law in America, has received some alterations. But it is by no means certain how far this alteration may open the American ports so as to give us reason to hope that flax-seed can be received in time for this Spring's sowing. If the non-intercourse act remains in force, the commercial communication between the two countries, must be carried on in a circuitous manner. The proceedings of Congress are yet involved in obscurity, which probably may not be cleared up, till after this Report goes to the press: but let the business terminate as it may, the impolicy of the Orders in Council still remains undiminished, it being a struggle between the two countries, which from its necessities would first be compelled to yield. Nor can any justification be derived from any repeal of the Embargo, the act of a foreign government, for the conduct of the majority at Armagh, who as far as their influence went, were contented to stake the essential interests of their country, on the cast of so precarious a chance.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from February 20, till March 20.

Barometer.....highest	- - - - 30 40	Thermometer.....highest	- - - - 47 10
mean	- - - - 30 0	lowest	- - - - 32 30
lowest	- - - - 29 10	mean	- - - - 43 00

<i>Typhus</i> , - - - - -	7	Common contagious fever.
<i>Pneumonia</i> , - - - - -	1	Pleurisy.
<i>Sphacelus</i> , - - - - -	1	Mortification.
<i>Ophthalmia</i> - - - - -	4	Inflammation of the eyes.
<i>Erysipelas</i> , - - - - -	1	Rose.
<i>Cynanche trachealis</i> , - - - - -	1	Croup.
<i>Nephritis</i> , - - - - -	1	Inflammation of the liver.
<i>Rheumatismus acutus</i> , - - - - -	2	Acute rheumatism.
<i>Arthrodynia</i> , - - - - -	1	Chronic rheumatism.
<i>Aphtha</i> , - - - - -	1	Thrush.
<i>Phthisis Pulmonalis</i> , - - - - -	1	Consumption.
<i>Asthma</i> , - - - - -	2	Asthma.
<i>Hydrothorax</i> , - - - - -	1	Dropsy of the Chest.
<i>Dyspepsia</i> , - - - - -	2	Indigestion.
<i>Asthenia</i> , - - - - -	4	Nervous Debility.
<i>Hæmoptysis</i> , - - - - -	1	Spitting of blood.
<i>Catarrhus</i> , - - - - -	2	Common cold.
<i>Diarrhæa</i> , - - - - -	1	Looseness.
<i>Scrophula</i> , - - - - -	3	Evil.
<i>Herpes</i> , - - - - -	3	Ringworm, or tetter.
<i>Hæmorrhoids</i> , - - - - -	2	Piles.

Fatuitas post ebrietatem, 1 Idiocy after excessive drunkenness.

Gonorrhœa, }
Syphilis, - } - - - 9 Venereal disease.

Morbi infantiles, - - - 92 Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

The unexampled mildness and serenity of the present month, although gladdening all nature, and inviting the inhabitants of the vegetable kingdom to burst perhaps prematurely from their *Hibernacula*, has produced little change on the quantity or quality of the diseases common to this country. If the number of cases of fever is not increased, it is not lessened. Drunkenness, at all times destructive of the energies of man, has in the present list given a melancholy instance of its power, where by a rational and intelligent being, has by its agency alone, been reduced to a state of complete idiocy. A medical friend lately showed the Reporter a drupe, or seed of the hawthorn, or *Mespilus orynacantha* of Linné which a lady had picked out of the cavity of her ear, after being lodged there for upwards of twenty years: she had thrust it in when a very young girl by accident, and it soon produced considerable deafness; sometime ago upon applying to a surgeon, he laughed at the idea of it being there, for he observed it must have rotted long since. Its organization, and hardness when cut into, were not in the least impaired, and the only changes that it had undergone were in its colour, which was black, and that the kernel when applied to a hot iron, gave an odour resembling animal substances. The lady hears much better, since its extraction. It would be very gratifying if any of your Correspondents, who are conversant in vegetable physiology, would favour the public with the reason why the vegetable principle was not developed under the apparently favourable circumstances of warmth and moisture.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From February 20, till March 20.

'Twas but late, the mourning year
 Felt the force of Winter drear,
 When from forth his chill abode,
 Clad in double night he rode;
 Scattering with his blighting breath,
 Hail and terror, storms and death.
 Now let spring her form unfold,
 Rob'd in green and gemm'd with gold.
 Lo! she comes, by Zephyrs led
 (Blooms unnumber'd round her head)
 Over valley, hill, and grove,
 Breathing life and health and love.

WESTAL'S DAY IN SPRING.

To mortal man it is not given to lift the veil which conceals the mysteries of nature, and even after the most careful investigation he beholds but in part only, that economy which governs the whole. Our winter birds of passage begin now to leave us, to revisit the Northern Regions, and amidst the wilds of Lapland, Nova Zembla, and the innumerable Isles within the Arctic Circle, to enjoy that peace and security denied them in the more populous countries of the south. But by what peculiar sensations they are enabled to hold their unerring course through the pathless air, amidst darkness and storms, the human mind has not been able to conceive, and man is led to look with humility, "from Nature up to Nature's God."

February 23d, Yew tree (*Taxus baccata*) and common yellow Crocus (*Crocus Mæsiacus* Bot. Mag.) flowering. The last did not begin flowering in 1808, until the 29th of February.

24, Alder (*Betula Alnus*) in flower.

25, Great Blue Titmouse (*Parus major*) singing. White and purple-striped Crocus (*Crocus vernus* variety) coming into flower.

26, Mezereon (*Daphne Mezereon*) flowering. Frogs croaking.

27, Blue Hounds-tongue (*Cynoglossum Omphalodes*) flowering. Golden-crowned Wren (*Motacilla Regulus*) and Woodlark singing.

28, Yellow Hammer (*Emberiza Citrinella*) singing.

March 1, Cloth of Gold Crocus (*Crocus sulphureus*) and Spurge Laurel (*Daphne Laureola*) flowering.

Black bird (*Turdus Merula*) singing. Bees beginning to fly about.

4, Purple Dead Nettle (*Lamium Purpureum et amplexicaule*) and Field Speedwell (*Veronica agrestis cœrulea et alba*) flowering. Fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*) returned.

- 5, Dog's-tooth Violet (*Erythronium Dens Canis*) and oriental Borage (*Borago Orientalis*) flowering. The *Erythronium* was in flower at the same date last year.
 6, Sweet scented Violet (*Viola odorata*) flowering.
 8, Lesser Daffodil (*Narcissus minor*) flowering.
 9, Dandelion (*Leontodon Taraxacum*) and Pilewort (*Ranunculus Ficaria*) flowering.
 10, Humble Bee (*Apis terrestris*) and Nettle Butterfly (*Papilio urtica*) flying out during the day, and the Dor (*Scarabæus Stercorarius*) in the evening.
 Made the second sowing of Peas.
 11, Barren Strawberry (*Fragaria sterilis*) flowering. Made the first setting of Beans.
 13, Double Daffodil (*Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus*) flowering.
 16, Primrose (*Primula acaulis*) flowering.
 17, Bulbous Fumitory (*Fumaria bulbosa*) and Yellow Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum luteum*) flowering.
 19, Larch (*Pinus Larix*) showing their fertile flowers.
 20, Field-fares yet here, the Woodcock, Widgeon, and various species of Ducks which frequent our waters during winter are disappearing.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From 20 February, till March 20.

The present period has been as remarkable for a series of fine weather, as the winter is for severity: the invalid who had languished through the dreary months of winter, as a ray of hope cheer his drooping spirits, while induced to walk abroad and enjoy in the month of March all the mildness of the long wished for April. And the husbandman rejoices in the fine season, which enables him, with so much ease, to commit to the earth the various seeds.

- February 21, 22, 23, Cool dark days.
 24, Some rain during the night.
 25, Showers during the night. Mild, pleasant day.
 26, Pleasant dark day.
 27, 28, Brilliant days.
 March, 1st, Pleasant.
 2, 3, Misty.
 4, 5, 6, Brilliant days.
 7, 8, 9, Gentle Showers.
 10, 11, Misty mornings, fine bright days.
 12, Brilliant.
 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,
 18, 19, 20, Dark, dry days.

The Barometer has seldom been known stationary for such a length of time, for stationary it may almost be called, when the total variation for a month was no more than from 30.2 till 30.4.

The variations of the Thermometer, although greater than the Barometer, have been less than usual for the season. It was on the 6th of March only so low as 30, on the first as high as 46, the rest of the time it was mostly about 44. or 45.

The wind has been Northerly 11; Southerly 10; Westerly 4 times, and Easterly 3; of the intermediate points, the South West was the most prevalent.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR APRIL 1809.

On the first, the Moon rises at 46 min. past 8 aft. being a little later than Spica the Virgin, from which it is distant about 7° ; as she mounts the heavens, Mars follows Spica to the West, and the Scorpion with Saturn in the east, just risen, make a fine line from the meridian to the south east by south very conspicuous. At 9 she is $38^{\circ} 42'$ from Antares, and $61^{\circ} 24'$ from Regulus; she passes the meridian the next morning at 35 min. past 1. and sets same morning at 55 min. past 5.
 Fifth, The Moon rises at 30 min. past 0, morning, being a little later than the rising of Antares; about 3 when the Scorpion and Saturn are on the meridian, the Moon on one side, and the stars of the Balance, with Mars, and Spica on the other; decorate highly the southern part of the heavens. The Moon passes the meridian at 32 min. past 4, and sets at 42 min. past 7.

Tenth, She rises 48 min. past 3, morning, passes the meridian at 4 min. past 9, and sets at 20 min. past 2, aft.

Fourteenth, On the evening of this day, is new Moon, at which time the Sun will be eclipsed, but invisible to us.

Twentieth, She is advanced beyond the seventh, and twelfth of the Twins, and under, but near her is the 3d of the Twins, she is now at a considerable distance from Venus, and her position within the splendid group around her is considerably changed from what it was last evening; at 9 she is $51^{\circ} 4'$ from Regulus, and $66^{\circ} 4'$ from the Sun.

Twenty-fifth. The Moon passes the meridian at 48 min. past 9, aft. being under the body of the Lion, the first being to the west, and the second to the east of the meridian; Mars and the first of the Virgin will call our attention to the east of her; and to the west, Venus, Aldebaran, and the first of Orion will decorate the lower region; at 9 she is $41^{\circ} 44'$ from Spica, and $49^{\circ} 59'$ from Pollux.

Twenty-ninth, This night at a little past 12, is full Moon, at which time there will be a visible eclipse; the Eclipse begins 42 min. past 10 aft. middle 12 min. past 0 morning, and ends 42 min. past 1, the digits eclipsed are $10^{\circ} 29'$ on the Moon's southern limb.

Mercury is a morning star during the whole of this month, being at his greatest elongation on the 1st, but even on this day the Sun rises so soon after him that he will be seen but by few.

Venus, is an evening star, and during the whole of this month, shines soon after sun set, with great splendour in the west. Her motion is direct through about 15° . On the 1st she is near the Pleiades and her passage through them will excite attention. The Moon passes her on the 17th.

Mars, passes the meridian on the 1st, at 2 min. past 1, morn. and on the 25th at 1 min. past 11 at night, his motion is retrograde through about 12° . The Moon passes him on the 28th.

Jupiter is a morning Star, but too near the Sun to be visible during the greater part of the month. The Moon passes him on the 13th.

Saturn is on the meridian at 47 min. past 3, on the morning of the 1st, and at 14 min. past 2 on the morning of the 25th. The Moon passes him on the 4th.

Herschell is longer above the Horizon than Saturn, and moves with a retrograde motion through about $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. The Moon passes him on the 2d.

The Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites are not inserted this month, for the reason assigned in our last Number.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is our wish to gratify our Correspondents by the insertion of their Pieces, when we find them compatible with the nature of our Miscellany; but justice to ourselves and to the public, compels us sometimes to reject.

The following Pieces do not suit us, and are left with the Publishers to be returned to the writers, if they call for them—A wonderful Vision, communicated by S.; A Romantic Scene; Friendship, an Allegory; Address to Luna; Reflections in a Graveyard; A Footman; H. E.; A friend to the Trade of Belfast; The ransomed Captive; Inquirer; Extempore in Defence of Sterne.

The instance of Sagacity in a Dog, from Hamilton's Letters on the Northern coast of the county of Antrim; and the character of Queen Elizabeth, from Wharton's History of English Poetry; being extracted from books, which are probably in the hands of many of our readers, would not bear repetition in our pages. Other Communications are under consideration.

In our next number we expect to give a critique on Brougham's speech before the House of Commons in 1803, on recapitulating the evidence produced against the Orders in Council, in which a comprehensive view will be taken of this famous measure of policy or impolicy; by which our present commercial interests are so materially affected, and to which we are indebted for the want of flax-seed.

We are obliged to our Correspondents for the favour of their Communications. But we are again necessitated to complain that we appear as plagiarists, when the fault is not ours. After the account of Ann M^{rs} Zuilien in this number was wrought off, we found that a similar article was published nearly verbatim in the Monthly Pantheon. We earnestly request of our Correspondents not to place us in so unpleasant a predicament. We cannot accept of divided favours without risking our character for originality, which it is essentially our aim to preserve.

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

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[Vol. 2.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE HERRING.

TRANSLATED FROM L'HISTOIRE NATURELLE
DES POISSONS PAR RENT—BY BLOCH.

THE Herring of the North, or the Stromling of the Baltic, is distinguished from other fish of the same genus, by the projection of the lower jaw, which is bent backwards, and by the seventeen rays of the anal fin. There are eight rays in the gill membranes, eighteen in the dorsal, pectoral and caudal fins, and nine in the ventral.

The head is small, the eye large, the iris silver, and the eye-ball black. The aperture of the mouth is small, the tongue short, pointed, and furnished on the inside with small teeth. The openings of the gills are usually of a violet, or red colour, which vanishes soon after death. The back is thick, round and blackish; the lateral line, which is near, is scarcely visible, the sides of a silver colour. Except during spawning time the belly is sharp and indented. All the fins are grey and small, except that of the tail, which is pointed and large.

This fish, so generally known, and equally admitted to the pompous table of the rich and the cottage of the poor, has been long known to our ancestors. They, however, did not derive from it all the profit which we have procured during the last centuries. It did not form a considerable branch of commerce with them as with us, because they did not know how to preserve it from putrefaction, as we do, by means of sea-salt. Towards the end of the thirteenth century, chance revealed to William Beukelen, a native of Brabant,* this secret, which

has saved so many lives, as it had discovered to Schwartz that of gun-powder, by which such numbers have perished. Beukelen's intention was undoubtedly to preserve the fish for some time, which led him to the discovery of packing it in casks with sea-salt. By care and reflection his method has been gradually improved, and at length brought to the perfection which it has now attained. This benefactor of mankind was fully deserving of the mark of attention paid to his memory by the Emperor Charles V. who celebrated this invention one hundred and fifty years after his death, by eating a herring on his tomb. This invention is so much the more important as the fish is of a soft and fat nature, is caught principally during the hottest part of the summer, and spoils very soon unless this precaution be taken.*

This fish is found in the Northern Ocean, in the North Sea and the Baltic, which communicates with it, as well as in the Atlantic, where it inhabits the depths, whence it departs, partly in spring, partly in summer and autumn, to take shelter in the rugged and craggy places in the mouths of rivers, where it may spawn and procure sustenance.

It is a very general opinion, that during winter the herrings retire into the Frozen Ocean, and that they thence undertake long voyages to the Southern parts of Europe and America. Let us see what Dott, Anderson, Duhamel and Bomare say concerning this. The

* Others say that this secret was discovered by a Scotch fisherman, who having quitted his country in disgust, taught the Flemings the art of barrelling herrings. The herrings of Flanders long maintained a high character.

* Yarmouth has long been famous for its Herring-fair (this fair was regulated by an act, commonly called the Statute of Herrings; in the 31st of Edward the third) that town is obliged by its charter, to send to the Sheriff of Norwich, one hundred herrings, to be made into twenty-four pies, by them to be delivered to the Lord of the manor of East Carlton, who is to convey them to the king. PENNANT

herrings, terrified by the number of enemies which pursue them, retire into the Frozen Ocean, where their enemies cannot live under the ice, for want of air. But as they multiply exceedingly in this sea, they are compelled, from want of food, to send out colonies in the beginning of every year.* These colonies going from beneath the ice, extend over a space of some hundreds of miles; but, as during their journey they are attacked by a great number of enemies, they are dispersed and divided into two wings, the right turns towards the west, the left to the east. The first press upon one another, and seek a shelter on the coast of Iceland, where they arrive in the month of March, then they take a westerly direction, and come to the banks of New-foundland.

* The great rendezvous of the herring is within the Arctic circle, there they continue for many months, in order to recruit themselves after the fatigue of spawning, the seas within that space, swarming with insect-food, in a degree far greater than in our warmer latitudes. PENNANT.

Mr. John Gilpin, in the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. ii. p. 236, says, "the herrings are a fish of passage and observe one regular annual route in the sea, shifting their climate with the sun, and that it is the same school which is found at different times about Britain and America. For they are found on the other side of the Atlantic, or rather in the North Sea, in the favourable month of June, about the islands of Shetland from whence they proceed down to the Orkneys, surround the British Isles, and uniting again off the Lands-end, in September, steer south-west across the Atlantic, and appear next on the American coasts. They arrive in Georgia and Carolina the latter end of January, in Virginia in February, and coasting from thence eastward to New England, they divide and go into all the bays, rivers, creeks, and even small streams of water, and continue spawning in fresh water until the latter end of April, when the old fish return into the sea, where they change their latitudes by a Northward direction, and arrive at New-foundland in May, after which we neither hear or see any thing more of them in America, until their return in the ensuing spring. This course of migration, Mr. Gilpin has traced on a chart of the Atlantic.

Their future course is not accurately known. The others on the contrary, direct their course towards the South, and divide into two columns; one of which proceeds along the coast of Norway, and enters the Baltic Sea by the Sound and the Belts, while the other turns to the west, towards the Shetland and Orkney Isles. There this latter column again divides; one part turns towards Ireland and Scotland, then turning round Ireland, enters the Spanish Sea (the Bay of Biscay) and passes through the British Channel to gain the coast of the Netherlands. The other division follows the eastern coast of Scotland and England, and passes into the North Sea, where the two columns re-unite. These great bodies of herrings send out smaller detachments on all sides, towards the coasts of France, Brabant, Flanders, Holland, Friesland, Zealand, Holstein, Bremen, Lubeck, Pomerania, Sweden, Denmark, and Livonia. Finally, after having presented themselves to the inhabitants of all these countries, they re-unite in the North Sea, and disappear; at least no traces of them can be afterwards discovered on the coast of Europe, and it is thought that they return to their former station.*

This recital though ingenious and bordering on the marvellous, and though generally admitted, does not prevent me from expressing some doubts as to its veracity, which I leave to the decision of the learned.

* Whether the course of the herrings depends on the set of the current, has not been sufficiently observed to enable us to account for their appearance on certain parts of a coast and not on others. It is said that Lough Swilly is the first part of the western coast of Ireland where the herring appears, and Tor Point on the eastern; so that the whole space from Lough Swilly to Tor Point is commonly without herrings. Now on examining a chart of the northern coast of Ireland, the course of the northern stream seems in part to countenance the opinion that the currents have a great influence in directing the herrings to particular coasts; and that when storms obstruct the natural course of the current, the herring may appear at one time where they are never found again. As this is a very interesting subject, we will be obliged to any person who can give us any information on it.

1. It is not true that one wing emigrates annually to Iceland; for Horrebow, who lived several years in that Island, assures us that several years often pass, during which not a trace of them can be discovered.—According to Olaffen, Egede, and Otto Fabricius, this fish is seldom found on the coasts of this island; which is in itself very probable, for if the herrings visited it, the Danish government, ever anxious to profit by its fisheries, would not have failed to have taken advantage of this.

2. It is not possible that in so short a space of time, that is to say, from spring to autumn, they could perform a voyage of so many thousand miles; for it is certain, that in smooth water, a fish can scarcely proceed more than a quarter, or at most half a mile, in twenty-four hours.—The herring must necessarily move much more slowly when it has to struggle against the agitation of the sea.

3. Herrings are to be met with on the coasts of Europe during the whole year. In Swedish Pomerania, for example, they begin to catch them in great numbers from January till March, and in many parts of the Baltic, from March till November; as also during this latter season in Norway. They also catch them in great numbers in the seas round Gothland, from October till December: the French take them to the end of the year. They find them also the whole year round on the coast of England, and the Scarborough fishermen never draw their nets without finding some herring among the other fish. When the Dutch fishermen are not satisfied with their success, they continue it till February on the coasts of Scotland. In the north of Holland, that is, towards Enkhuisen, Monckendam, and Hoorne, they fish for herring in February, March, and April. In fine, they fish for them in Sweden till the middle of winter.

4. If this fish comes in large bodies from the North pole, why does the smaller kind turn towards the Baltic, and the larger towards the North Sea?

5. If the herrings are pursued by the whales, why do they travel many hundred miles farther than is necessary for avoiding the danger? Does the sight of this creature, or, as M. Strohmasserts, its dreadful bellowings inspire them with such terror as to continue long time after they have escaped the danger? In such a case I do not see why they should expose themselves a second time, in winter to the attacks of this dreadful enemy.

6. If the herrings came from the North would they be caught during the whole Summer in such numbers on the coast of Norway? Would they not, like birds of passage, be found in great numbers at some seasons, and seldom, or not at all, at others?

7. Should we not then observe some marks of their return? Even though they do not approach the coasts, would not the grampus, the porpoise, and the whale, which pursue them incessantly, discover their course?

8. Were it only want of food which compelled the herring to send out colonies, why would this always occur at the same time, and in the same season? Is it probable that their provisions should fail exactly at the end of the year?

9. If the whales drive them in shoals into the bays, why are they found in shoals in places, such as the North Sea, and the Baltic, where there are none of these formidable enemies?

All these difficulties will vanish, if we study nature attentively in all her operations. The herrings in common with all other fish quit their usual abode during spawning time, and seek out places where they can deposit their spawn undisturbed.—For this reason they leave the deep water, like the others, in order to find solitary places, rough and broken by the violence of the currents.—Wherefore, about this time, when the fishery is most abundant, the milt is liquid in the male, and the eggs separate in the female. The spawning season draws near, and it is this instinct, not the dread of whales, that draws them into such places. Like all other fishes they spawn at three

different seasons, generally according to their age: besides, as the spawning time of the same fish occurs sometimes sooner, sometimes later according to the temperature of the water, and of the air, it is easy to discover why the herring appears at different times. For example, in the Baltic and on the coast of Norway a small kind which comes to spawn there, is seen, in summer; a shoal of larger size appears, in autumn; a smaller kind again appears, full of eggs and milts, and which therefore is on the point of spawning. The same takes place on the coast of Scotland. For this reason the Dutch fishermen divide this commodity into three qualities, which they call *virgin herrings*, *empty herrings*, and *full herrings*. Empty herrings, are those in which neither milt nor eggs are found; virgin herrings, those in which the milt and eggs are liquid; and full herrings, those whose bodies are full of milts and eggs. Empty herrings are nothing more than such as have spawned in spring, and full herrings such as spawn in autumn and winter, while the virgin herrings spawn in summer. It is well known that sea fish, or those in lakes, who go up the rivers or streams in spring, do not return till autumn to the place of their usual habitation. This is undoubtedly the case with herrings also, and hence proceeds their dispersion into a variety of places in winter. It is also not improbable that the herring, which is a small sea-fish, spawns like many species of small river fish, more than once in the year. Nature has different means of attaining the same end, for as the small frequently become the prey of the large, the former must necessarily multiply much more than the latter, this is effected by their spawning more frequently. The same may be remarked in small birds and other species of animals. This prodigious multiplication has led many writers to believe that this fish spawns also beneath the ice in the polar regions. When we reflect on the immense extent of space which has been given to the herring for its habitation, we ought not to be astonished at their prodigious numbers, and astonishing multi-

plication, observed even so early as the time of Aristotle, which serves to repair the immense numbers daily destroyed: all this happens under our own eyes in the case of river fishes, in a manner proportionate to the small space they occupy. If fish was not so much disturbed during the spawning time, they would multiply in a manner still more extraordinary. This is demonstrated by experiments lately made by an intelligent writer on natural economy. He made a carp-pond, containing about seven acres, which he supplied with plenty of provisions, and put into it three females, and four males. They produced young to the number of 110,000, which was too considerable, and prevented them from attaining their full growth. We may also draw another proof of the prodigious multiplication of fish, from the greater number of males than females. This circumstance is very favourable to the increase of fish. The places in which they spawn also contribute much to this; as these are generally in deep water, and at a distance from the shore, they are much less exposed to the danger of being disturbed or dispersed by tempests and inundations. I will add one circumstance more.

The wise laws enacted in the United Provinces to preserve the character of their herrings, contribute in no small degree to facilitate their increase—Every sailor and fisherman, before he sets out, is obliged to bind himself by oath, not to cast his nets before the 25th of June, and on his return, he must again declare on his oath that he has faithfully adhered to this engagement. It is true that the chief end of these precautions, is to procure the best sort of herrings; they have not only succeeded in this, but also thus encourage the multiplying of these creatures, by preventing their being interrupted in spring from fulfilling the great law of nature. Another law forbids the fishing to continue longer than the 25th of January. This is no less favourable to their increase, as those who spawn later are thereby suffered to remain undisturbed. These regulations have had such effect, that for several centuries the herring fishery

is carried on more successfully by the Dutch than by other nations, because fishes like to return to places where they have spawned without disturbance, and to those in which they were born. Formerly this fishery was much more considerable in Norway than at present. It has also failed considerably in Sweden: in Prussia also, where it was once very considerable, it is now almost totally extinct.

The disturbance of the fish, however, is not the only cause which prevents them from appearing a second time on a coast; a number sufficient to preserve the species always escapes through the nets, provided the fishermen, through a desire of increasing their prize, do not make the meshes too small, and that they do not take the fry along with the full grown, as is done by the Swedes. This method is extremely prejudicial: and it is perhaps from the same reason that the fisheries have failed in Prussia. The law in Holland, which regulates the size of the meshes in herring nets, is very useful. For thus, they not only always get large herrings, but they secure a plenty in future, because those of a smaller size escape through the nets, and propagate the species. Finally, it is well known by experience, that the water, the nature of the bottom, and other circumstances, contribute largely to render fishes larger, fatter, and better tasted in one country than in another. The salmon and salmon-trout taken in the Baltic are much inferior to those of the North Sea. It seems to me that the same reason will account for the herrings in the Baltic being much smaller and worse tasted than those of the North Sea.

The herring, so often exposed to the voracity of other creatures, belongs to the class of voracious fishes. It lives particularly on small crabs; Neucrantz has found in its stomach many half digested; Loewenhoek has found fishes' eggs in the oesophagus. It is also fond of worms. The Norwegian fishermen have often found its bowels filled with a kind of red worm, which they call *roe-aal*. When the fish is full of such food, it is generally supposed that it is diseased; but the truth is, that these worms being very liable to corrupt, spoil the herring before it is salted.

As soon as these creatures are observed in herrings newly caught, the fishermen leave them some time longer in the water in order that they may be completely digested, and rendered capable of preservation till they are cured.

We have seen that the herring spawns at different times; with respect to this the following remarks have been made: Some days before they make their appearance in shoals, a few scattered males are met with, and moreover a greater number of females than males are observed in the same shoal. When the fish is about to spawn, it rubs its belly against the rocks, throws itself now on one side, again on the other, draws in the water eagerly with its mouth open, rejects it immediately, and agitates its fins with violence. As they generally come in large shoals, the sea is muddied by the great quantity of liquid spawn thrown out. At this time an offensive smell comes from them, which is perceptible to a great distance; in rubbing themselves, they lose part of their scales, which are seen floating on the water. These signs point out to the fishermen the places where they ought to throw their nets.

The stromling, or spring herring of the Baltic, spawns when the ice begins to melt, and this continues till the end of June. Then comes the largest kind, or the summer herring: and lastly the autumn herring, which spawns from St. Bartholemew to the middle of the month of September. All these kinds do not spawn at once, but by degrees. They then appear in shoals, and after having employed two or three days in spawning, they return to the open sea, making a noise very similar to a shower of rain. The summer herring keeps at a greater distance from the shore, and spawns in the deeper places; it is known by the eggs with which the nets and lines are often covered, as with a bark.

As to further particulars, it is not necessary to mention here, in detail, that at these times the herrings form shoals which observe a certain order; as this also happens to other fish, as the roach, the salmon, and the Baltic trout (*salmo lavarettus*). The same may be remarked in birds of passage, and field mice.

To be Continued.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
I HAVE read with much pleasure and interest, two papers lately published in your Magazine, signed "A Reader." His sentiments entirely coincide with mine in respect to Sterne, whose affected sensibility I could never read, without thinking of the many unfeeling acts he has been guilty of; besides his whole writings are so very exceptionable that they cannot be read without feeling hurt that human nature is so depraved as to admire a book which is so unfit to be read. I have lately been reading a book entitled, "The Correspondence of Samuel Richardson, author of Pamela, Clarissa, Sir Charles Grandison, &c. by Anna Laetitia Barbauld," and was much gratified to find my opinion of Sterne's writings was confirmed by an extract from a letter of Mr. Richardson's, to the Rev. Mr. Hildesley, Bishop of Sodor and Mann, including the sentiments of a young lady, part of which I shall take the liberty of extracting:

"Who is this Yorick? you are pleased to ask me. You cannot, I imagine, have looked into his books; execrable I cannot but call them, for I am told that the third and fourth volumes are worse, if possible, than the two first, which only I have had the patience to run through. One extenuating circumstance attends his works, that they are too gross to be inflaming. My daughter shall transcribe for me the sentiments of a young lady, as written to another lady, her friend in the country, on the publication of the two first volumes only:

"Happy are you in your retirement, where you read what books you choose, either for instruction or entertainment; but in this foolish town, we are obliged to read every foolish book that fashion renders prevalent in conversation, and I am horribly out of humour with the present taste, which makes people ashamed to own they have not read, what, if fashion did not authorise, they would with more reason blush to say they had read! Perhaps some polite person from London, may have forced this piece into your hands, but give it not a place in your library; let not Tristram shandy be ranked

among the well chosen authors there. It is, indeed, a little book, and little are its merits, though great has been the writer's reward! Unaccountable wildness; whimsical digressions: comical incoherencies; uncommon indecencies; all with an air of novelty, has caught the reader's attention, and applause has flown from one to another, till it is almost singular to disapprove; even the bishops admire, and recompense his wit, though his own character as a clergyman seems much impeached by printing such gross and vulgar tales, as no decent mind can endure without extreme disgust! Yet I will do him justice, and, if forced by friends, or led by curiosity, you have read, and laughed, and almost cried at Tristram, I will agree with you that there is subject for mirth, and some affecting strokes. Yorick, Uncle Toby, and Trim are admirably characterised, and very interesting, and an excellent sermon of a peculiar kind, on conscience, is introduced; and I most admire the author for his judgment in seeing the town's folly in the extravagant praises and favour's heaped on him; for he says, he passed unnoticed by the world till he put on a fool's coat, and since that every body admires him!

"But mark my prophecy, that by another season, this performance will be as much decried, as it is now extolled; for it has not intrinsic merit sufficient to prevent its sinking, when no longer upheld by the short lived breath of fashion: and yet another prophecy I utter, that this ridiculous compound will be the cause of many more productions, witless and humourless, perhaps, but indecent and absurd, till the town will be punished for undue encouragement, by being poisoned with disgusting nonsense."

While I am on this subject, I beg you will also allow me to remark how much injury has been done to society from some of Miss Owenson's works, particularly the "Lay of an Irish Harp," in which I am sorry to say she has departed from that delicacy of feeling, which ought so peculiarly to mark the female character. Her late novel, "Woman, or Ida of Athens," was so excellently criticized in your Magazine, I wish the Reviewer had

mentioned with disapprobation, as a most objectionable part, the coquetry and studying of attitudes, of which all Miss Owenson's heroines are so fond, as I hope that some of the female sex are superior to such things.

A LOVER OF SIMPLICITY OF CHARACTER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON MORALITY.

“Say, Reason, say,
When shall thy long minority expire?
When shall thy dilatory kingdom come?
Weak are the outward checks, that would supply,
Thy bridle's place, within the secret heart.
The pigny Rapine, whose invasions vex,
The private scene, that hides his head minute,
From human justice, it is thine to end:
And thine, the Titan-crimes, that lift to heaven,
Their blushless fronts, and laugh at laws.”
FAWCETT'S CIVILIZED WAR.

IN writing on the subject of morals, it will be unavoidable not to bring into view how far they are influenced by the political institutions which exist among us, or not to express a wish that more of the exertions of legislators were turned towards introducing a correct morality, through the means of an enlightened system of legislation, especially directed to this point. Good laws would do much, good examples in the higher and middling classes would do more towards introducing this correct system through all the various classes of the community, beginning at the higher ranks, and extending through all the gradations of society. Dr. Johnson, in an advanced period of his life, on being asked whether he had found mankind better or worse than he had found his expectations on entering into the world, answered, “he had found them not just, but more benevolent.” We see frequently the creatures of surrounding circumstances, and many from the pressure of adversity, have had their moral principle undermined. “My poverty, but not my will consents,” is not a valid plea for the errors of the poor, but yet it may be allowed to go in mitigation of a rigorous condemnation. I have often with heartfelt satisfaction observed the latter part

of Dr. Johnson's remark exemplified, in perceiving that benevolence is a quality more frequently found in human nature than the misanthrope may be willing to allow. It may be sometimes nearly smothered, but it often revives, and few hearts are insensible to its delicate touches.

A very great error lies in laying too much stress on the ceremonials of religion, while the essence of religion, that great principle, which according to the radical meaning of the word (from the Latin verb religare to bind or fasten) binds man to man, is too much neglected. Morality, that duty which man owes to himself, and his neighbour must be inseparably linked with the duty he owes to his God.

The importance of morality must be acknowledged by all classes. It forms the principal security for our comfortable enjoyment of life, as much of the unhappiness existing in the world proceeds from a relaxed system of morals. In this state interests clash, and the passions of ourselves and others disturb our quiet. One person, or a few departing from the dictates of a correct morality, produce similar actions in others. Vice has a tendency to introduce a re-action. If I am injured by my neighbour, and irritation succeeds, or retaliation follows; at every step, in this race of error, we get farther from the course of rectitude, until from the invasions of pigny-rapine, great crimes follow as the certain consequence. Morality is the very essence of religion, it is the practical exemplification of our duty to God and man, and affords the legislator the best sanction for the scrupulous fulfilment of the laws of justice. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON SIR FRANCIS BURLETT, AND PARTIES.

FROM the notice often taken of your work, and particularly of your Political Retrospect, I find you offend the timid and time-serving. But persevere and probably the voice of the People will soon be with you. The late investigation in the House of Commons has done much to open the eyes of the people of England, as evinced by the proceedings of the cities of London, Westminster, and other places.

Perhaps Ireland may yet catch a spark of the public spirit, though some of her *once patriotic* members were found in the majority against Wardle's motion.

Men, who belong to parties, cannot be much depended on; they have their private purposes to answer, and may not wish to shut the door against their return to power on some future contingency. But in this instance we have seen the business carried by the voice of the people against *all parties*: for after all we may see that the people compelled the House of Commons to go so far as they were reluctantly driven, and it was the voice of public censure that prevented them from giving the Duke of York a full acquittal.

My principal design in writing is to communicate through your pages an anecdote of Sir Francis Burdett, when he was in France, during the short peace in 1802. He was asked to what party he belonged? Whether to the party of Fox? "No," says he, "TO THE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE." A noble answer! and yet I have heard him censured, as not being in this answer, sufficiently respectful to this famous statesman. But Sir Francis scorned to wear the badge of party.

I shall mention an instance of the servility of party in the Irish House of Commons.

The members dependent on a certain Northern Peer, actually appeared in the house, in a uniform, which was the livery of that nobleman.—This was only a barefaced avowal of what others practice with nearly equal servility. A SIFTER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

I FIND it is not inconsistent with the plan of your work to receive contributions from other periodical works, when the obligation is honestly acknowledged. I therefore send you the annexed anecdote of Sir Sidney Smyth, extracted from the Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature, for the last month.

A READER.

AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

THE annual meeting of this laudable Society was holden on Saturday, the

25th instant, at the Freemason's Tavern, his Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Patron and President, in the chair. The report of the proceedings of the Directors was ordered to be published, and will be analyzed in this work, as soon as it appears. The Earl of Moira having informed the meeting in a very impressive speech, of his having recently learnt that Sir Sidney Smyth had been presented by the Prince Regent of Portugal with an estate, and with a number of negro-slaves, to be employed in cultivating it; and that the use Sir Sidney had made of this gift was immediately to liberate the slaves, and to allot to each of them a portion of this estate, to be cultivated by them as free labourers, for their own exclusive benefits. It was resolved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Wilberforce, That his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester be requested to communicate to Sir Sidney Smith, the high sense entertained by this meeting, of his admirable judgment and liberality in the above instance, and to return him their warmest thanks for a conduct which is so truly honourable to the British name and character, and which may be expected in the way of example to be productive of the happiest effects.

We wish, by quoting the above resolution, to express our admiration of Sir Sidney's conduct. Without meaning any disrespect to the military profession, we could almost hope that he may be less known hereafter by the appellation of, *the hero of Acre*; than by that (which is well deserved) of THE PHILANTHROPIST OF THE BRAZILS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO CIVILIZE INDIA BY PEACEABLE MEANS, A GOOD LESSON FOR GOVERNORS, EXTRACTED FROM A NARRATIVE OF A TOUR THROUGH BENGAL, AND THE INTERIOR OF HINDOSTAN IN 1794, &c. PUBLISHED IN THE LONDON MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

MR. CLEVELAND was appointed chief of Baugilpore, about the year 1778. This gentleman was by nature humane, mild, and con-

ciliating; the manners and customs of the natives had been his particular study, and experience in his dealings with them had taught him that a free and unreserved confidence tended more to establish a friendly intercourse, than any other method; his benevolent and capacious mind embraced the idea of converting this lawless race of people into useful citizens, and establishing them as barriers against the attacks of the remoter and more ferocious tribes. With this philanthropic intention, he issued orders to the Seapoys, when next they took any of them prisoners, to use them kindly, and bring them to him; this with some difficulty was done, when Mr. Cleveland, instead of ordering them to be hung up, as had been the general custom, treated them with the greatest mildness and humanity, expressed his desire to be on terms of friendship with all their people, and finally dismissed them with handsome presents, and a message to their chief, signifying his wish to have an interview with him, to treat about affairs that would tend to their mutual advantage; and to remove all cause of apprehension on their part, he proposed going amongst them into the remote and intricate recesses of their native hills, attended only by an interpreter. The astonished mountaineers, who expected nothing but death, regarded him as a being of a superior race, and departed with a promise of returning, with the answer of their Rajah, which they did in a few days, bringing his assent to the proposed interview. Mr. Cleveland accordingly proceeded, notwithstanding the earnest advice and remonstrance of his friends, a large party of whom accompanied him to the foot of the hills; he ascended with confidence, and was conducted by his guides through various turnings and windings, to the presence of the Rajah. After the usual introductory compliments, he opened the cause of his visit, and expatiated in a forcible manner on the advantages the mountaineers would derive from the friendship and protection of the English. The Rajah listened to him with attention, the language and manners of Mr. Cleveland, the confidence he

reposed in trusting himself alone and unarmed amongst them, and above all, an ancient tradition which had been handed down from father to son, that they were to derive some great benefit from the visit, and consequent friendship of a stranger, carried conviction to the mind of the Rajah, and induced him to enter into Mr. Cleveland's views, without further hesitation. That gentleman taking advantage of the superstitious ideas the tradition had inspired them with, proposed immediately to cement their friendship by the solemn ties of religion. The Rajah with all the ardour and joy semi-barbarism feels in the expectation of possessing some new, and as yet unappreciated gift, summoned the priests to his presence, and without further delay ratified the treaty with all the solemnity and awe the most sacred rites of religion are capable of inspiring. Mr. Cleveland returned to Bangalore, attended by several of the mountaineers, who became so attached to his person, that he formed them into a corps, which was soon augmented by fresh recruits from the hills. Their fidelity and activity in protecting the villagers from the depredations of their countrymen, became so conspicuous, that it was thought prudent by government to entrust them with firelocks and discipline them in the European manner. The experiment succeeded admirably; applications for admittance into the corps became so numerous, that a battalion of one thousand men was soon formed, under the appellation of Hill rangers: the constant intercourse between these people and their brethren in the hills, brought about general habits of civilization and friendly intercourse, and at this day, scarcely thirty years from the first formation of the corps, the British government in India does not possess more peaceable and loyal subjects, than the mountaineers of Bangalore.

Statesmen and warriors, who study how to enslave and slaughter mankind, have their names handed down to posterity by the pens of historians, while the modest virtues, and more essential services of such a man as Cleveland, unembellished with titles,

and undecorated with trophies, will sink into oblivion amidst the civilized world, save in the memory of the humane philanthropist, who can duly appreciate the value of his labours, in converting a lawless race of savages into useful and peaceable citizens, without the effusion of blood, by the mild but certain method of reciprocal benefit.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RUINED ABBEY
OF BONA MARGA, IN THE COUNTY
ANTRIM.

A LONG the extensive coast of the county Antrim, are scattered several ruins, whose origin is generally lost in fable, but whose rude and massive architecture evince their remote antiquity. Many of these were evidently intended for permanent castles of defence against the predatory invasions of the Scotch.—Some for the residence of the baronial chieftain, and others for temporary watch-towers. Amid this number of Gothic remains, the only monastic building on the coast is the abbey of Bona Marga, which was founded in 1509, by Charles M'Donnell, for monks of the Franciscan order, and which may be ranked among the latest of the monastic edifices raised in Ireland. It is situated about a quarter of a mile from the village of Ballycastle, commanding to the west a view of the ocean, with the bold outlines of the rocks that rise in many a fantastic shape along the coast; to the south the undulating line of the mountain of Knock-lead, and to the east the extensive glen of Carey. The chapel is one hundred feet in length, and thirty-four in breadth. The refectory, cells, and other apartments, are too much dilapidated to allow any accurate description of their former size. The eastern gable of the chapel which is still in a tolerable state of preservation is adorned with several well executed devices in bass relief, which however are now rapidly mouldering to decay. To the east of the great entrance to the chapel are the remains of a small edifice with narrow pointed gables, which seems to have

been the lodge of a porter, or lay-brother. The venerable stillness of this sacred spot, the numerous reliques of mortality that surround it, and the remembrance it produces of days that have been, give it even in its present desolated state an appearance more interesting, more impressive than it possessed when rising in all its plenitude of monkish pride; for, in viewing a well finished modern structure, there is a *ne plus ultra*, upon which the eye and mind are equally forced to rest. But in the contemplation of an ancient ruin, there is such room for imagination to add a thousand ornamental touches, such softened regret for the transiency of human workmanship, that its greatest interest arises from its decay, and it is from this principle that many a coarse and barbarous mass of Gothic labour, has, from a lapse of time mouldered into beauty.

The view of Bona Marga has of late been necessarily injured by the addition of a new roof to a small oratory which was built adjoining the great Abbey church, by a former Earl of Antrim, over the ashes of several of his family, whose burial place it is; a window in this oratory has also been stopped up, over which is an inscription, now rendered almost illegible, but of which the following is an accurate copy:

In Dei Dei-parisque virginis honorem,
Nobilissimus atque illustrissimus
Randolphus M'Donnell
Comes De Antrim,
Hoc sacellum fieri curavit,
Anno Dom. 1621.

In the Antrim vault there is a singular inscription, in Irish characters, on the coffin of the first Marquis of Antrim, a transcript of which, with a translation, shall appear in an ensuing Magazine. L

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

CAMP MEETINGS.

I LATELY received the following account of one of the Camp-meetings so common in America, from an intelligent Correspondent, in New York. It may probably be gratifying to several of your readers, as it holds out in a strong point of view.

the dangers of fanaticism. It forms an instructive page in the natural history of man; and affords an example of his aberrations and obliquities! My aim is not to offend any, but to seek to inform.

RATIONAL.

"About the latter end of last summer, I had a severe visitation of illness, so much so, that I began to suspect myself in an advanced stage of consumption. About this time there was a methodist camp-meeting to be held forty miles from this city, (New York) up the North River. I thought a sail might be useful to my health, and would also gratify a curiosity I long had, of being at one of these meetings, about which I had heard so much conversation. Accordingly I took a passage in a sloop bound for the camp meeting, with a number of others, some of whom were Methodists, and others not. We sailed at 9 o'clock in the morning, and arrived about 8 next morning. We had to go about three quarters of a mile, after we landed, to the camp. For a considerable part of the way, our ears enjoyed the sound of human voices in the exercises of singing and praying, which greatly increased as we approached nearer. It was about breakfast time, when I arrived. I had formed intentions previously to my leaving home, of noting particulars in writing, and had made preparations accordingly: but I soon found myself incapable of it, from the multiplicity of extraordinary circumstances, to keep an account of which, appeared nearly as impossible as to attempt to number the stars. They consisted in the most extreme exertions of the human passions, bounded only by religious enthusiasm. Under its directions, and influenced by this stimulus, some were praying, some preaching, some singing, some shouting, and clapping their hands in exultation, some dancing and jumping, some crying, and others lying without motion, apparently deprived of life. The camp, according to supposition, took in about ten acres: it was in the woods. The tents were arranged round in a circular form, two, and in some places three deep, with a space to pass and repass. The Blacks had one corner

to themselves. Their fires were a few paces in from the tents. Circular also, in, or near the centre, is a stage for the regular preachers, to which the congregation were called thrice a day, viz. at ten, two, and six o'clock, by the sound of a silver trumpet. It is a principal topic of the preacher to impress on his hearers the usefulness of such meetings, and to declare the similarity of them to the ancient practice of Christians. He seldom concluded this business of preaching, praying, and singing, till he communicated so much of his enthusiastic fire, as to inflame the congregation: then a scene ensued of noise, and *regular disorder*, beyond my power of description. This they call an out-pouring of the spirit, and a modern day of Pentecost.

"After the congregation breaks up, they separate into smaller circles, and continue in numbers over the ground, day and night, influenced with an equal degree of extravagant zeal. I have frequently seen from one to six in these small circles, lying sometimes motionless; and others apparently in convulsions. In these cases the members form a moving circle, and walk round and round, to keep off the pressing croud, singing all the time. Curious as the scene is during the day, it is more so during the night, through the whole of which this devotion continues. The meeting lasts three or four days. This one ended with a love feast; after which the members formed into ranks of about six deep, and marched round the ground in procession; the men before, and the women behind, shaking hands with the preachers, who were fixed at a certain place. Thus ended the whole.

"These meetings are approved of, and under the direction, and generally attended by the Members of the Methodist society for many miles round. They bring with them bedding, and victuals for the time they stay, and admit of nothing being sold in the camp ground. Some tents are permitted at a distance, where articles of refreshment for strangers are sold. These are called the tents of wickedness."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON FEVERS.

AS fever is at present very prevalent in your town, and some neighbouring places, I think you might profitably occupy a corner in your miscellany with the following Rules to prevent the spreading of infectious fevers. I likewise recommend you to publish the address lately circulated, previous to the charity sermon preached in the parish church of Belfast on the 3th of March last, for the benefit of the Fever Hospital and Dispensary. As the remarks are so excellent and of a general tendency as to the prevention of contagion, it would be wrong to confine them within the circle in which they were originally published. By diffusing them more generally, you may confer a public benefit, by showing the necessity of establishing Houses of Recovery in cases of fever in other places. A PHILANTHROPIST.

Rules to prevent infectious fevers.

It may be proper to observe that the poison of a putrid fever, in a small, close, and dirty room, affects a very great proportion of mankind, not less than 26 out of 27, or a still greater proportion; but, in a large, airy, clean apartment, even putrid fevers are seldom or ever infectious. When this poisonous vapour is mixed with fresh air it is not hurtful. From an attentive consideration of numerous facts, relative to this distemper, have been formed the following rules:

1. As safety from danger entirely depends on cleanliness, and fresh air, the room-door of the patient, ill of an infectious fever, especially in the habitations of the poor, should never be shut, a window in it during the day, ought to be frequently opened. Such regulations would be highly useful to the patient and nurses: but are particularly important previous to the arrival of any visitor.

2. The bed-curtains should never be close drawn round the patient, but only next the light to shade the face.

3. Dirty clothes, utensils, &c. should be frequently changed, immediately put into cold water, and washed clean, when taken out of it.

4. All discharges from the patient

should be instantly removed. The floor near the patient's bed rubbed clean every day.

5. The air in a sick room has, at the same time, a more infectious quality in some parts of it than in others. Visitors and attendants should avoid the patient's breath; the air which ascends from his body, especially if the bed curtains be closed, and the vapours arising from all evacuations. When medical or other duties require a visitor to be placed in these situations of danger, infection may be frequently prevented by holding in the breath.

6. Visitors should not go into an infectious chamber, with an empty stomach, and in doubtful circumstances on coming out, they should blow from the nose, and spit from the mouth, any infectious poison, which may have been drawn in by the breath.

ADDRESS TO THE INHABITANTS OF BELFAST.

THE managing Committee of the DISPENSARY and FEVER HOSPITAL, from an experience of several years, in the public utility of these Establishments, call upon the Inhabitants of Belfast for a continuance of support and encouragement. The Committee make this call with confidence, from a conviction, that an Institution which has deserved so well the patronage of the Public, will not now be considered as a subject of mere casual and precarious bounty, but rather worthy of permanent and habitual protection. It is no longer an experiment to be tried, but an Establishment to be maintained.

Motives of humanity, and of self-interest; unite in securing the permanence of an Institution, which has hitherto drawn forth the judicious liberality of the Inhabitants. Every Man, for his own sake, every Father, for the sake of his family, must be willing to contribute something to an assurance from the spread of Fever, as he would from the ravages of Fire; and it is the object of the Hospital to extinguish Fever in its first sparks, before it spreads, from neglect, uncleanness, or mismanagement, through the family, then through the neighbourhood, and, at length, by the necessary intercourse of society, in

various ways, through the whole town. A single case of Fever, from the focus of a dirty hovel, may chance to multiply into a malignant epidemic. The Institution wishes to arrest it in the earliest part of its progress, to crush the head of the serpent, before it gathers all its venomous malignancy, before it propagates its likeness, before it creeps from its low abode, into the chambers of the middling and higher orders, where, in general, it darts its mortal poison.

It has been said that Fever, among the poor, is seldom fatal, that nature is generally the best physician, and that she performs the cure, in spite of the drugs and the Doctors. But the poor, as well as the rich must, and will, have Doctors of one kind or other. They will become subjects of a bad practice, if they be not, by professional humanity, made subjects of a good plan of treatment. They will be obliged to drink spirits out of a naggin, if they do not get proper medicine out of a phial. Nature will be always more counteracted by the prejudices of the vulgar, than under the management of a regular Physician, who knows himself to be but Nature's servant and interpreter. It appears certain that the advice and authority of men who unite knowledge to humanity, and zeal with activity, have gradually, and imperceptibly, produced the best effects in changing the regimen usually adopted by the poor, in cases of Fever. Their experience of cold, as one of the greatest evils, had probably led to the prejudice, that heat, both external and internal must be the sovereign remedy, and hence they recurred, in such complaints, at the very first, to ardent spirits through choice, and, at the last, to cold water through necessity.

Medicines are supplied to the poor in the Dispensary-department of the Institution; and the sick poor, who cannot be removed, are visited by either physician or surgeon at their own abodes. All subscribers of one guinea in the year, have a power of recommending to the Hospital and the Dispensary.

Every large town, in particular every manufacturing town, and Bel-

fast has, of late years, become of that number, may be said to be encircled with a margin of misery. Often, the more prosperous, and gay, and sparkling things appear in the interior of such towns, the broader and darker is this border of wretchedness which surrounds them. The pressure of want, in a certain degree, may be allotted to a large portion of every society, as the most effectual stimulus and incitement to labour, and industry; but there is an extreme degree of want and misery, which precludes all ability to labour, begets a torpid inactivity, and finishes, by generating pestilential disorders. It becomes, therefore, the duty, the interest and the sacred obligation of the more wealthy part of the Community to guard their fellow-citizens, themselves and their families, from the ravages of malignant contagions. The most useful part of the Police, in a great town, is that which respects the health of the inhabitants, and it is often a department the most shamefully neglected.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING understood that freedom is allowed in your press, I wish to offer the following remarks to my fellow-islanders, through the medium of your Magazine.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

Countrymen,

As the present time seems to be awfully important, whether we take a view of the nations at large, or of those kingdoms with whose prosperity our own welfare is so intimately connected, it would appear to be our duty, in our respective stations, to remove the grievances we now lie under, as far as in our power, by an examination of our past conduct, wherein we may view the causes of our present distress. If we take a view of the rise and progress of the French war, and impartially consider what were the motives by which we were influenced to carry on that dreadful and destructive contest, I am confident we will find it was rather from pride and ambition, than from a benevolent love to the human race.—The present exorbitant prices of many

of the necessities of life, are certainly the effects of our former conduct. It appears, under the present existing circumstances, that the inhabitants of Ireland, in their relative situations, will be injured. The failure of the last crop, not only of flax, but also of corn, is seen and felt by all, and its effects, at a few months distance, will certainly be worse. Many thousands of men and women will be idle for want of materials to work upon, if a foreign supply be not speedily procured. The scarcity of flax, notwithstanding the encouragement given by Government, in erecting machines for converting this valuable commodity into ropes, for the use of the Navy, is a serious grievance under which the peasantry of this kingdom at present labour. Another public grievance is the dearth and scarcity of timber, whereby all repairs and improvements in building are greatly retarded, and without a speedy supply must in a great measure be suspended altogether. While the present war continues we can expect no flaxseed in the ensuing spring; and how the poor industrious inhabitants of Ireland will be able to pay their rents, tythes, and taxes, is a matter of serious consideration. Another effect of the war is scarcity of gold. For several years past the blood and treasure of these kingdoms have been wasting like snow on a rock, beneath the meridian sun. How many millions of money have been spent in subsidizing the different Powers of Europe, which have proved in a great measure abortive of restoring peace and harmony to Europe! How much has been also spent in fitting out expeditions, which have often failed as to their intention, notwithstanding the superior skill and conduct of their leaders. How many thousands of lives have been lost in these enterprises, spreading calamity and distress over many a domestic circle. When we consider how many strenuous efforts we have made towards the reduction of the French Ruler, not sparing our blood and treasure, nor even our character; and at the same time observe how ineffectual all these endeavours have been, it becomes us to apply to the only remedy, *peace*.

If we duly weigh the foregoing considerations, with many more not mentioned, I presume it will appear to be

our duty, in our several stations, whether high or low, from the peasant to the rulers of counties and districts, to petition the Parliament to procure for us the blessings of peace. We are informed by the sacred penman, that an era speedily will arrive, when nation shall not rise up against nation, nor learn the cursed art of war; when they shall beat their swords into plough shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks. We are also informed, that blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Dec. 12, 1808.

B. A.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PERMIT me to add a few concise remarks (from the works of a well-known author) to those of your ingenious Correspondent, who signs himself "A Friend," in your valuable Magazine for last month, on the subject of "Duelling;" which, as a punishment, is absurd; because, it is an equal chance whether the punishment fall upon the offender, or the person offended. Nor is it much better as a reparation; it being difficult to explain in what the satisfaction consists, or how it tends to undo the injury, or to afford a compensation for the damage already sustained.

"Murder is forbidden, and wherever human life is deliberately taken away, otherwise than by public authority, there is murder. If unauthorized laws of honour be allowed to create exceptions to divine prohibitions, there is an end to all morality, as founded on the will of the Deity, and the obligation of every duty may at one time or other be discharged by the caprice and fluctuations of fashion. But a sense of shame is so much torture, and no relief presents itself otherwise than by an attempt upon the life of our adversary." What then? the distresses which men suffer by the want of money is oftentimes extreme, and no resource can be discovered but that of removing the life, which stands between the distressed person and his inheritance.

"The motive in this case is as urgent, and the means much the same as in the former, yet this case finds no advocate.

“Take away the circumstance of the duellist’s exposing his own life, and it becomes assassination; add this circumstance, and what difference does it make? None but this, that fewer perhaps, will imitate the example, and human life will be more safe, when it cannot be attacked without equal danger to the aggressor’s own.

“Public opinion is not easily controlled by civil institutions; for which reason I question whether any regulations can be contrived of sufficient force to suppress or change the rule of honour, which stigmatizes all scruples about duelling, with the reproach of cowardice. The insufficiency of redress which the law of the land affords for those injuries which chiefly affect a man’s sensibility and reputation, tempts many to redress themselves. Prosecutions for such offences, by the trifling damages that are received, serve only to make the sufferer more ridiculous. This ought to be remedied.

“For the army, where the point of honour is cultivated with exquisite attention and refinement, I would establish a *court of honour*, with a power of awarding those submissions and acknowledgments, which it is generally the purpose of a challenge to obtain, and it might grow into a fashion with persons of rank of all professions, to refer their quarrels to this tribunal.

“But if this should fail, rather than let such a barbarous custom continue amongst us, I would have recourse to the law established by Frederick the Great; “I would make the champions continue the contest till one of them was killed, and I would hang the survivor.”

A FRIEND TO SOCIETY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A MIRROR FOR REPRESENTATIVES.

ON looking over some old papers lately, I met with the following address of the late William Brownlow, to the freeholders of the county of Armagh. I well remember his manner of acting at the election which ensued. He made no canvass, and brought up no tallies, while the voters for the two rival candidates, between whom the contest lay, agreed in giving to him their suffrages. He sat in a dignified manner, re-

ceiving from both sides, the homage due to virtue, and his long faithful services, of which he says no more than what was strictly due in this Address. I remember it was objected by some little minds at the time, that he acted with too much hauteur on the occasion, but it was the conscious dignity of virtue, and a just reliance on his integrity. I revive the circumstance now, as an attempt to fan the embers of that spirit of independence which is in danger of becoming extinct. Certain untoward circumstances, have caused the spirit of virtuous independence to become unfashionable. I wish for its revival as connected with the best interests of man. Here is an excellent lesson for Representatives, that they in like manner may surrender their trust, supported by a sense of conscious rectitude. But alas! how few are qualified to act a similar part. Many of them are too fond of the favours of the crown, or of the minister, to be faithful servants to the people, and thus the popular branch of our Constitution is in some danger of being lost. K.

“TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE
COUNTY OF ARMAUGH,

Gentlemen,

“I HAVE now served you six-and-thirty years, and can with a safe conscience assert, that I never in that time attempted to apply the sacred trust you reposed in me to my own interest or advantage in any shape whatever, but acted with constant diligence and attention to the utmost of my power for the public service. Relying upon this, and confident from the very honourable marks of approbation I had at several times received, that my proffer of service would be as pleasing to you as it was to myself, I again tendered it; though, had I consulted only my ease, retirement would have better suited me. I cannot suppose that at my time of life and length of service you could require or expect personal solicitation; I am not equal to the fatigue; and indeed what had I to solicit, but a farther opportunity to serve you and the public, as far as I was able, at the expense of much labour and assiduity? for certainly my own private advantage was in no sort concerned.

“I have ever looked upon the honour

of representing a free people, in the manner I have so many years enjoyed it, as the highest I could obtain; I never desire it on other terms. I will not urge any man to give me a vote that does not proceed from his heart. Look back at my conduct and see how you have been served; see whether I have not been forward to promote every advantage that the nation has received since I have been your Representative. The freeing her Constitution from the dependence in which it was so long held—shortening the duration of Parliaments, which is a proper check on the conduct of the Representative—extending the freedom of Trade, and encouraging the Linen in every branch: in short, every thing that was done or attempted for the advantage of this country had my warmest support. However, if you are of opinion, that you can be better served by any other man, avail yourselves of your privilege, and elect him; far be it from me to wish the Freedom of Election should be cramped. I shall neither be jealous of his situation nor accuse you of ingratitude; but if inclination, gratitude, or public spirit should induce you to place your confidence again in me, long experience may have convinced you that you will not be deceived.

“I have now made known my sentiments and the ground on which I proceed; nothing remains for me but to wait with respectful submission for your determination; these are the only means by which I shall attempt your favour. Be assured it shall never be laid to my charge, that I have corrupted the morals of the county, by using any of the arts too frequent at Elections. If I can do the county service, my ambition is gratified; I am not the man to injure it for any consideration whatever. Let my situation in life be what it may, I shall ever remain a steady friend to my country, and never forfeit the character of an honest, uncorrupt man, which I thank God I have firmly established.

“I am Gentlemen, with every sentiment of duty and respect, Your very faithful and obedient humble servant,

“W. BROWNLOW.”

Dublin, April 17, 1790.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HISTORY OF TYTHES.

AMONG the great variety of subjects that have occupied the columns of the Belfast News-papers for the last year, few have been more conspicuous than Tithes. The public have seen many publications complaining of the system as injurious to agriculture, and oppressive to that numerous and useful body of men, the land-holders; and an equal number at least contending for the propriety and continuance of the Tithe laws as they now stand.

The subject was introduced by a complaint from the grand Jury of Armagh against the exorbitant exactions of some clergymen in that county; the reply of the clergy and most of the subsequent publications seem to have treated it with too much asperity to produce conviction on the minds of the parties, and the contest was maintained more with the appearance of indulging in reflections, than with a view to remove prejudices, and place the subject in a clear point of view.

If we consider the great length of time that Tithes have been established as a legal mode of support for the clergy, and that the certainty of their continuance must have operated as a strong inducement to many of them to qualify themselves for the office, and relinquish every other prospect of maintenance that might have been open to them, we shall not be much surprized at their being alarmed at any proposal for abolishing or altering them; it is natural for a man to be tenacious of what he conceives to be his property, and cautious of countenancing any thing that he imagines may have a tendency to injure it.

These considerations ought to incline every moderate man to make great allowances for the objections of the clergy to a commutation or other alteration proposed to be made in the Tithe laws. They have a legal claim to Tithes. They have been long in their possession, and until they are satisfied that the alteration will not be a loss to them, they are at least entitled to the liberty of stating their objections.

Complaints have been made, and probably on good grounds, that some clergymen are rigorous and exorbitant in the exaction of their demands, and that their conduct has a certain tendency to sour the minds of the people against them, and even make them dissatisfied with the government that countenances them, but these complaints, it must be acknowledged, attach only to a small part of the clerical body in this province at least, and ought not to be applied to the whole, since it must be admitted that the generality of them do not receive nor even demand the tenth of the produce which the law would actually permit them to take, and which in England, I am informed, is in many districts strictly demanded, not only for corn, but for milk, pigs, eggs, poultry and other smaller matters, which in this country we know nothing of.

Having made these prefatory observations, I will proceed to consider the subject of Tithe as to its origin, continuance, and effects, both in former and present times. The first legal or national establishment of Tithes that we read of, was under the Jewish dispensation, and appears to have been an equitable institution: the tribe of Levi having been appointed for the exercise of religious functions only, were debarred from their share of the lands divided amongst the other tribes, that they might not be incumbered with secular concerns, and the tenth of the whole allotted them as a compensation for it. The officiating Priests received only one tenth of that Tithe, and another portion of it was appropriated to the relief of the poor, the widow, and orphan. This establishment, however, appears to have ended with the Jewish theocracy; for, at the commencement of the Christian era, and for several centuries afterwards, there is not a trace of Tithes existing in the Christian church, nor was it introduced until the professors of Christianity in general, and the ministers of it in particular were corrupted by the love of power, and of money, when by the accession of Constantine, it became the established religion of the state: yet even then, and for some centuries afterwards, one fourth

part of the Tithe only was claimed by the officiating clergy, as appears by the writings of several historians.

Blackstone in his commentaries vol. 1. page 384, says, "At the first establishment of parochial clergy, the tithes of the parish were distributed in a four-fold division, one for the use of the Bishop, another for maintaining the fabrick of the church, a third for the poor, and a fourth to provide for the incumbent. When the sees of the Bishops became otherwise amply endowed, the Bishops were prohibited from demanding their usual share of the Tithes, and the division was into three parts only." In process of time, when superstition had extended its influence even over the minds of Kings, the priests had the address to prevail on them to direct their subjects to pay the whole of the Tithe into their hands, and to induce the people to comply with the demand more readily, they invented many ridiculous stories, one of which is related to have issued from a synod held at Frankfort in the year 794, in a capitulary, which asserts, "that in the last famine the ears of corn were found to contain no seed, the infernal spirits having devoured it all, and that those spirits were heard to reproach the people with not having paid Tithe."

It would tire the patience of the reader, and exceed the limits of a Magazine, were I to transcribe all the instances which history furnishes us with, of the deceptions practised on the people by the priests or former superstitious times to secure to themselves the exclusive possession of Tithes, yet I cannot resist the inclination to give one quotation from Selden's History of Tithes, page 169, as another singular instance of it.

"In the reign of Henry VI. in the 15th century, a penitential was made for the use and direction of priests in their auricular confessions as follows. "Hast thou truly paid thy tithings and offerings to holy church? Thou art to understand that at the beginning of the world, Adam was directed to give to God the tenth part of every thing: God bade him to teach his children to do the same.

x k

Adam had two sons, Cain and Abel. Abel tithed truly, and of the best: Cain tithed falsely and of the worst. At last the false tither Cain slew his brother, because Abel blamed Cain, and said he tithed falsely, wherefore God cursed Cain and all the Earth: so you now see that false Tithing was the cause of the first manslaughter that ever was, and it was the cause why God cursed the Earth."

In this manner, in times of superstition and priest-craft, the doctrine of Tithes was preached up, and by this means they were introduced into these countries, and became a law, and passing from the reign of one King to the government of another, they obtained their present footing.

Now if we look into the origin of tithes, and the manner in which they have been handed down to us, there is not much room to plead for them on the score of antiquity; and since the claim to them on divine right is given up, they stand not on ground too high to exempt them from the inspection of an enlightened age, nor the alterations of a British Legislature. Laws which have been suitable in one age may not be found to answer in another. Change of times often requires a change in the laws. It is not uncommon for a Parliament to repeal an act in one session that had been made by itself in a preceding one.

In an act passed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, enjoining the payment of tithe, it is offered as a reason, "that it seemed just that those who received from the clergy spiritual things, should communicate to them temporal things." Whatever claim to equity this law might have had at a time when the great majority of the people were of the national church, it loses that claim, and cannot be equitably applied to a country where not more than one eighth of the inhabitants are so. Here then is one ground on which it is alleged the legislature ought to take up the subject of tithe, and make some alteration in it that would be more equitable in its operation, and less obnoxious to the people. Its injurious effects on agriculture stand also prominent among the objections raised

against it: many eminent men have employed their pens in pointing out the injury: The celebrated Arthur Young, whose exertions in husbandry are not exceeded by any, and whose practical knowledge of it constitutes him a competent judge of whatever promotes or retards it, makes no scruple in asserting, "that tythes, of all other taxes, are the most obstructive to the progress of tillage." The ingenious Archdeacon Paley, speaking of it, says, "of all institutions which are adverse to cultivation and improvement, none are so obnoxious as that of tithes." And again, "Tithes are a tax, not only upon industry, but upon that industry that feeds mankind: the burden of the tax falls with its chief, if not its whole weight upon tillage, upon that precise mode of cultivation, which it is the business of the state to relieve and remunerate in preference to all others."

Were I to quote all that has been written by men of the first talents and best information, against this tax, it would constitute a volume, whilst it would shew, that dissatisfaction with tithe is not peculiar to the people of this country, nor the discouragements to agriculture, so much complained of, exclusively felt by the landholders of Ireland.

There is yet one consideration which I think ought above all others to have the greatest weight with the wise and moderate among the clergy, in disposing them to desire a change in the tithing system, and that is, the effect that the present mode has on the minds of the people; they know that the very nature and end of their appointment, and for which tithe is allotted them, is the instruction and improvement of mankind in religion and morality—and that to effect this, it is absolutely necessary that the teachers should possess the love and good opinion of those they teach, because, if this is not the case, there is no probability that their instructions, however good, will have their proper weight, and consequently the very end of their appointment will be defeated. It cannot be a wise and judicious mode of support, which gives separate interests to the clergy and their

hearers; a mode which annually brings into view the loss which the landholder sustains by the present establishment, and renews the animosity naturally resulting from his finding the demand encrease in proportion to the encrease of his industry, and the money he has employed in improving his land.

Many of the clergy, from their connections, talents, and education, are, or ought to be respectable, yet this respectability is often lessened, if not destroyed, by the present tithing system, which by placing them at variance with the people, casts a shade over their good qualities; besides this, there is something extremely degrading to men of good sense and character, to be made dependant for support on a tax, levied by themselves off the lower classes of the people, all of whom give it with reluctance, and many of whom are scarcely able, by their utmost exertions, to procure a scanty subsistence for their families, and who never fail to execrate that man who wrests from them a portion of their hard earned substance.

These are certainly great objections to the continuance of the present mode of supporting the clergy, and ought to induce them to unite in a solicitation to the legislature, for some alteration that would be more favourable to themselves, and less obnoxious to the people. What is there in tithes that should incline them to prefer it to all other modes of support? Is not £500 a year, well secured by some other establishment, as good as £500 by tithes? and preferable, by being divested of all the evils and inconveniences of the latter?

They have no occasion to be afraid to trust the care of their concerns into the hands of Government and Parliament, who, if they change the mode, are not likely to lessen the means of support.—Surely every good and moderate clergyman ought to rejoice at the prospect of an alteration that would free him from a share of the odium indiscriminately brought on the whole body, by the exorbitant demands, and rigorous exactions of some of their order; and which, by removing the cause of disagreement between them and the people, would open to him the means of obtaining

all the love and respect due to his usefulness, and the goodness of his character.

Y.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IT does not strike me, that your Correspondent P. has explained a passage in Horace's Ode, Lib. 1st. and I must confess myself equally dissatisfied with the meanings contended for by D'Acier and Sanadon. The term *Matres*, may be considered here as including females in the different capacities of mothers and married women. To say that *Wars are hateful* to women merely as mothers can scarcely be considered as the meaning of the passage; to confine it to the other sense is wholly inadmissible. Sanadon too has unwarily enough thrown out a severe sarcasm on the married state by limiting *his sense* of the term *Matres* to young *unmarried women*, and seems pretty strongly to imply a hint, that had the marriage ceremony taken place, their anxiety would have been considerably abated.

The quotation from Virgil appears to me, (with the view I have of the passage) not sufficient to illustrate the meaning of Horace. It seems to confine the detestation of war in some measure to those mothers whose children are not of an advanced age. The image is not at all similar, as those mothers would then only be alluded to who were most likely to be directly molested by the ravages of war. The detestation mentioned by Horace, is a dislike permanent and arising from a consideration of the miseries of such a state of things, and widely different from the sudden impulse of natural feeling expressed by the mother in Virgil. I fully agree with P. in the marked difference that exists between Akenside and Virgil in their application of this maternal impulse: however, that it has been a favourite theme of many poets cannot serve the cause one way or the other, for we ought to remember that these poets have been neither mothers nor married women. We may also recollect, that Homer (an authority

on which we may safely rely in ascertaining the *scale* of human passions) makes Andromache express more tender regard for her husband than for *Astyanax*: the whole interview indeed might be adduced as an Elucidation of a passage in Horace. I am, Sir, yours, &c. W.

Newry December 4th, 1808.

P. S. I must assure P. that I controvert the meaning of the passage merely with a view to *elucidate*, not to *combat*. I wish and hope he may consider this communication in the same light.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AN account of the new discoveries in chemistry, particularly the decomposition of alkalies, and the formation of the two substances, Potassium and Sodaum, by means of the Galvanic Batteries, by Professor Davy, of the Royal Institution, as communicated by him to the Royal Society of London.*

Mr. Davy first described the methods made use of for the decomposition of fixed alkalies, and he found that the powers of electrical decompositions were proportional to the strength of the opposite electricities in the circuit, and to the conducting power and degree of concentration of the materials employed. In his first attempts at the decomposition of the fixed alkalies, he acted upon aqueous solutions of potash and soda, saturated at the common degrees of temperature, with the Voltaic batteries, but in these cases the water alone was affected, and hydrogen and oxygen disengaged, with the production of much heat and violent effervescence. As water appeared to prevent the decomposition, he used potash in igneous fusion, and some brilliant phenomena were produced, and when the platina spoon on which the potash was placed was made to communicate with the negative side of the battery, and the connection from the positive side was made with platina wire, a vivid and constant light appeared at the opposite point: there was no effect of inflammation round it; but aeriform bubbles, which inflamed in

the atmosphere, rose round the potash. He made some attempts to collect the combustible matter, but without success; he only attained his object, by employing electricity as the common agent of fusion and decomposition.

Pot-ash, when perfectly dried by ignition, is a non-conductor; but with the slightest addition of moisture, becomes a good conductor, and in this state it readily fuses and decomposes by strong electrical powers. Having placed a small piece of pure pot-ash, on an insulated disk of platina, connected with the negative side of the battery, and a platina wire communicating with the positive side being brought in contact with the upper surface of the alkali, a vivid action almost instantly took place; the pot-ash fused at both points of electrization; there was a violent effervescence at the upper surface; at the lower, or negative surface, there was no liberation of elastic fluid; but small globules having a high metallic lustre, similar in visible characters to mercury, appeared; some of which burnt with explosion and bright flame, as soon as they were formed, and others remained, and were merely tarnished, and finally covered with a white film, which formed on their surfaces.

"These globules," says the professor, "numerous experiments soon showed to be the substance I was in search of, and a peculiar inflammable principle, the basis of pot-ash." He ascertained that the platina was not at all connected with the result, for the same substance was produced when other metals, or charcoal, were employed for completing the circuit.

Soda, when acted upon in a similar manner, exhibited an analogous result, but it required a battery of strong powers. The substance produced from pot-ash, which is now denominated "Potassium," remained fluid at the temperature of the atmosphere, at the time of its production; that from soda, called "Sodaum," which was fluid, at the degree of heat of the alkali during its formation, became solid on cooling. The globules often burnt at the moment of their formation, and sometimes violently exploded and separated into smaller globules, which flew with great velocity through the air, in a

* This analysis is taken from the last number of Philips' Monthly Magazine.

state of vivid combustion, producing a beautiful effect of continued jets of fire.

In speaking of the theory, Mr. Davy observed, "that the metallic lustre of the substance from Potash immediately became destroyed in the atmosphere, and that a white crust formed upon it." This crust is pure potash, which immediately deliquesced, and new quantities were formed, which in their turn, attracted moisture from the atmosphere, till the whole globule disappeared, and assumed the form of a saturated solution of potash. Water is likewise decomposed in the process, for it is demonstrated that the basis of the fixed alkalies, that is "Potassium and Sodaum," act upon this substance with greater energy than any other known bodies. Hence the minute theory of oxydation of the basis of the alkalies in the air is this; oxygen gas is first attracted by them, and alkali formed; this alkali speedily absorbs water, this water is again decomposed; therefore, during the conversion of a globule into alkaline solution, there is a constant and rapid disengagement of small quantities of gas. From the facts related, of which we mention only a part, it is inferred by Mr. Davy, that there is the same evidence for the decomposition of potash and soda into oxygen and two peculiar substances, as there is for the decompositions of sulphuric and phosphoric acids, and the metallic oxydes into oxygen and their respective bases. In the analysis, no substances capable of decomposition are present, but the alkalies and a minute portion of moisture, which seems in no other way essential to the result, than in rendering them conductors at the surface; for he has ascertained that the new substances are not generated, till the interior, which is dry, begins to be fused.

The combustible base of the fixed alkalies seem to be repelled as other combustible substances by positively electrified surfaces, and attracted by negatively electrified surfaces, and the oxygen follows the contrary order; or, the oxygen being naturally possessed of the negative energy, and the bases of the positive, do not remain in combination, when either of them is brought into an electrical state opposite to its natural one.

After Mr. Davy detected the bases of the fixed alkalies, he found great difficulty in preserving and confining them so as to examine their properties, but he found that in recently distilled naphtha, they might be preserved some days without much change. The basis of pot-ash at 60° of Fahrenheit possessed the general appearance of mercury, so as not to be distinguished from it; but at that degree of temperature, it is only imperfectly fluid: at 70° it is more fluid, and at 100° its fluidity is perfect, so that different globules will run into one. At 50° it is soft and malleable, with the lustre of polished silver, and at the freezing point it becomes harder and brittle, and when broken into fragments, exhibits a crystallized texture, which by means of the microscope, seems composed of beautiful facets of a perfect whiteness, and high metallic splendor. At a heat approaching redness, it is converted into vapour, and is found unaltered after distillation. It is a perfect conductor of electricity.

When a spark is taken by the Voltaic battery from a large globule, the light is green, and combustion takes place at the point of contact only. When a small globule is used, it is completely dissipated with explosion, accompanied by a most vivid flame. It is an excellent conductor of heat; but resembling the metals in all these sensible properties, it is very different from any of them in specific gravity, being only as 6 to 10 compared with water, so that it is the lightest fluid body known.

With respect to chemical relations, it combines with oxygen slowly and without flame at all temperatures below that of vaporization; but at this temperature combustion takes place, and the light is of brilliant whiteness, and the heat intense. When a globule is heated in hydrogen gas, at a degree below its point of vaporization, it seems to dissolve in it, for the globule diminishes in volume, and the gas explodes with alkaline fumes and bright light, when suffered to pass into the air. When brought into contact with water, it decomposes it with great violence, an instantaneous explosion is produced with bright flame, and a solution of pure pot-ash is the result. When a globule of this substance is placed upon ice, it instantly burns with a bright

flame, and a deep hole is made in the ice, which is found to contain a solution of pot-ash.

Theory—The phenomena seem to depend on the strong attraction of the potassium for oxygen; and of the potash for water. The heat which arises from two causes, decomposition and combination, is sufficiently intense to produce inflammation. The production of alkali in the decomposition of water by potassium, is shown by dropping a globule of it upon moistened paper, tinged with turmeric. At the moment that the globule comes into contact with the water it burns, and moves rapidly upon the paper, as if in search of moisture, leaving behind it a deep reddish brown trace, and acting upon the paper as dry caustic potash.

So strong is the attraction of potash for oxygen, and so great the energy of its action upon water, that it discovers and decomposes the small quantities of water contained in alcohol and ether. Potash is insoluble in ether, but when potassium, the basis, is thrown into it, oxygen is furnished, and hydrogen gas is disengaged, and the alkali, as it forms, renders the ether white and turbid. In ether and alcohol, the energy of its action is proportioned to the quantity of water they contain, and hydrogen and pot-ash are the constant result. Potassium thrown into solutions of the mineral acids, inflames and burns on the surface. It readily combines with the simple and inflammable solids, and with metals, with phosphorus and sulphur, forming compounds similar to the metallic phosphurets and sulphurets. When it is brought into contact with a piece of phosphorus, and pressed upon, there is a considerable action; they become fluid together, burn, and produce phosphate of pot-ash. When potassium is brought into contact with sulphur in fusion in the atmosphere, a great inflammation takes place, and sulphuretted potash is formed. The sulphuretted basis becomes oxygenated by exposure to the air, and is finally converted into sulphate. When one part of potassium is added to eight or ten parts of mercury, at about 60° of Fahrenheit, they instantly unite, and form a substance like mercury in colour, but less coherent, and small portions of it appear

as flattened spheres. When a globule is made to touch a globule of mercury about twice as large, they combine with heat; the compound is fluid at the temperature of its formation, but when cool it appears as a solid metal, similar in colour to silver. If the potassium be still increased, the amalgam becomes harder and brittle. When the proportions are one of potassium to seventy of mercury, the amalgam is soft and malleable. If the compounds are exposed to air, they rapidly absorb oxygen; potash which deliquesces is formed, and in a few minutes the mercury is found pure and unaltered.—When a globule of amalgam is thrown into water, it rapidly decomposes it, with a hissing noise; potash is formed, pure hydrogen is disengaged, and the mercury remains free. The action of potassium upon the inflammable oily compound bodies, confirms the other facts of the strength of its attraction for oxygen. On recently distilled naphtha that has been exposed to the air, it soon oxydates, and alkali is formed, which unites with the naphtha into a brown soap that collects round the globule. On concrete and fixed oils, when heated, it acts slowly, coal matter is deposited, a little gas is evolved, and a soap is formed. By heat it rapidly decomposes the volatile oils.

Potassium readily reduces metallic oxydes when heated in contact with them; it decomposes readily flint and green glass with a gentle heat; alkali is immediately formed by oxygen from the oxydes, which dissolves the glass, and a new surface is soon exposed to the agent.

We shall in our next give a more detailed account of the decomposition of soda.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

PARAMYTHIA; FROM THE GERMAN OF HERDER.

THE following fables from the Greek mythology, which have already appeared in the Monthly Repository of Theology, seem to possess sufficient merit to recommend them to the perusal of the readers of our Miscellany.—They are taken from the *Zersheute Blätter*, and are introduced with the following remarks.

Herder says he has called them *Paramythia* in imitation of the modern Greeks, who according to *Geyen*, gives this term to the tales and fables, in the relation of which they pass away their time. Παράμυθος also means *recreation*. Further, these fictions are founded on the old Grecian fable μύθος, into which the author has thrown a new sense and import: so much for the title.

Herder seriously recommends this new casting of Grecian fictions as an exercise of the taste and imagination of young persons. It may indeed be objected that frequent compositions of this description might diminish the reverence with which we justly contemplate these poetical fragments of ancient wisdom, and destroy the harmony and consistency of the whole. To which it may be replied, that the beauty of the Grecian mythos is inherent, and not conventional or dependent on our belief of their antiquity, and that no modern fiction could assimilate itself with them, which does not resemble them in significance and beauty. The *Paramythia* are in prose, and have no other ornament of style than that of full and well turned periods. Herder cites in vindication of simplicity of language in compositions of this sort, the elegant Greek distich—

Beauteous art thou Ag'ain, embellishing
all things around thee;

Beauteous art thou adorn'd: naked, thou'rt
beauty itself. H.C.R.

1. *Aurora*.

A troop of joyful maidens celebrated with dances and songs of praise the feast of *Aurora*. "Thou, the most beauteous and most blessed of the goddesses," they sung, "arise! each morning in the beauty of endless youth, and with the hue of the rose, bathed in the spring of all delight and of the enlivening blossoms." Even as the sun arose, *Aurora* turned her team towards them, and stood before them the most beautiful but not the most blessed of the Goddesses. Tears stood in her eyes, and the misty veil which she had drawn from the earth, lay like a damp cloud on her shining and rosy coloured forehead.

"Ye children," said she, "who ho-

nour me with songs of praise, your youthful innocence has drawn me hither, that I may show myself to you as I am. Whether I am beautiful, you may see yourselves; whether I am happy, may those tears speak, which I daily shed in the lap of my sister *Flora*. In my youth I thoughtlessly united myself with the aged *Titan*, from whose arms ye behold me every morning so early hastening. As a punishment for him and me, his grey immortality is without youth, and it robs me too of beauty and splendour as long as I am by him. For this reason do I so early hasten to my short employment of driving away the shadows, and I conceal myself during the day in sun-beams, till *Titan* sees me, when he instantly drags me down into his grey bed, weeping and blushing for shame.—Take warning from me, ye maidens, nor believe that the most beautiful among ye must be the most happy, if she be not as wise as she is fair, and choose for her felicity a spouse of her own condition."

Aurora vanished, but her image shone again in the eyes of the maidens, in each tear-drop of the dew. They no longer celebrated her as the wisest, because she was the most beauteous of the goddesses, and they became wise through her example.

2. *Flora's Choice*.

As *Jupiter* summoned before him in ideal forms, the creation he had resolved to make, he winked, and there appeared before him among others, the gaudy *Flora*. Who can describe her charms? Who can paint her beauty? All that the earth had borne in her virgin lap was collected in the stature, form, colour, and garments of *Flora*; all the gods looked upon her; all the goddesses envied her beauty.

"Choose," said *Jupiter*, "a partner from among this numerous assembly of gods and genii, but beware vain child, that thy choice do not deceive thee."

Flora looked with levity around; and would that she had chosen *Phœbus* who burned with love towards her! But his beauty was too high for the maiden, his passion was too silent. She cast a rapid glance a-

round her, and chose—who could have expected it?—one of the lowest of the gods, the volatile *Zephyrus*.

"Senseless!" exclaimed the father of the gods, "that thy sex even in its diviner forms should prefer each wanton and fascinating charm to a higher and more silent love. Hadst thou chosen him (pointing to *Phœbus*) thou and thy whole race had shared with him immortality. But now, enjoy thy consort." *Zephyrus* embraced her, and she vanished. As flower-dust she was lost in the region of the god of air.

As *Jupiter* brought the ideal forms of his world into existence, and the womb of the earth was before him, ready to bring forth into life the scattered dust; he called aloud to *Zephyrus* who slumbered over the ashes of his beloved. "Arise! arise! O youth! bring thy beloved here, and behold her earthly appearance." *Zephyrus* came and with him the flower-dust: it was at once scattered over the surface of the earth. *Phœbus* through ancient love animated it. The goddesses of the springs and streams, for sisterly affection, penetrated it. *Zephyrus* embraced it, and *Flora* appeared transformed into a thousand many-coloured budding flowers.

Each of them rejoiced as she recognised again her celestial lover and resigned herself to his wanton kiss, in his gently-waving arms. But the joy was short; as soon as the fair one had unfolded her bosom and had prepared her bridal bed in all the charms of perfume and colour: the satiated *Zephyrus* left her; and *Phœbus* who took compassion on her too kind and easily deceived love, by his consuming beam, put an early period to her sufferings.

Each spring, ye maidens, renews this history. Ye bloom like *Flora*, choose some other partner than *Zephyrus*.

3. *Echo*.

Do not believe it, ye children of simplicity; do not believe the poet's tale, that modest *Echo* ever solicited the vain *Narcissus*, or was ever the loquacious betrayer of her goddess. Listen to me and I will relate the true history of *Echo*.

Harmonia, the daughter of love, was an active assistant of *Jupiter* in his work of creation. With maternal tenderness she imparted to the newly formed being, a tone, a note, which penetrates into the depths of his bosom, binds his whole existence together, and connects him with all kindred beings. At length she had exhausted herself, the beneficent mother! and being by her birth but half an immortal, was forced to abandon her children. How deeply did her departure afflict her! she fell down before the throne of *Jupiter* and prayed:—"Powerful God! let my form vanish from before the heavenly beings, but do not annihilate my heart and my feelings, and do not separate me from those to whom I have given existence from my own bosom: let me at least be invisible among them, and participate and feel with them each tone of joy and sorrow, with which I endowed them, happy or unhappy."

"And wilt it ease thee," answered the god, "to feel their wretchedness invisibly, and be unable to aid them or in any way be seen by them?—This is denied thee by the irrevocable sentence of destiny."

"Let me but answer them," she replied, "let me but be able to repeat the tones which issue from their breasts, and my maternal heart will be comforted."

Jupiter touched her gently, and she became the formless and widely spread *Echo*. Wherever a tone from one of her children is heard, the heart of the mother resounds in sympathy.—With the consonance of an harmonious soul, she produces from every creature, every fraternal being, the notes of sorrow and of joy. By her the hard rock is penetrated, by her the solitary wood is animated. And how often hast thou not, thou tender mother, thou bashful inhabitant of solitude and the silent grove, exhilarated me more than the barren circles of men, from whose hearts and whose souls no tones are emitted!

4. *The dying Swan*.

"Must I alone be without song and dumb," said the silent *Swan*, sighing, as he bathed himself in the splendour of the setting sun, "I at

most alone, in the whole kingdom of feathered swarms. It is not the clucking hen, or the prattling goose, or the screaming peacock, whose voice I desire; but the gentle Philomela, thee I envy when enchanted by thy magic notes, I more slowly circuit the lake, and fascinated, loiter amid the glories of the scene. How would I sing thee, thou golden evening sun, thy beauteous light and my felicity; dying, I would plunge beneath the mirror of thy rose-like forehead."

In silent rapture the Swan dived below, and as he rose again upon the surface, he beheld on the shore a shining form, which benignly invited him to approach. It was the god of the morning and evening sun, the beautiful Phœbus. "Chaste and lovely being," said he, "the prayer is granted thee, which thou hast so often nourished in thy silent breast and which could not be granted till now." He had scarcely said these words when he touched the Swan with his lyre, and tuned upon it the music of the immortals. The tones pierced with rapture the bird of Apollo, who in grateful joy and in harmony with the god of beauty, sang the beautiful sun, and the splendid sea, and his innocent and blissful life. His harmonious song was soft as his form, it lasted in slow and gently enslumbering notes till he found himself again in his true and heavenly beauty, at the foot of Apollo in Elysium. The song which was denied him in life was given him in death, it was destined gently to dissolve his corporeal limbs, for he had then heard the music of the immortals and had seen the visage of a god. He gratefully clung to the foot of Apollo, and was hearkening to his divine notes, as his faithful spouse arrived, who had in mournful strains sang herself into Elysium. The goddess of innocence adopted both as her favourites; she places them in the yoke before her car, when she bathes in the sea of youth.

Be patient, silent and hoping heart! what is denied thee in life, because thou canst not yet endure it, is given thee in the hour of thy dissolution.

5. *The Lily and the Rose.*

Tell me, ye benign daughters of
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the coarse and black soil, who gave you your beautiful form? for in truth ye have been modeled by no inelegant fingers. What tiny spirits sprang out of your calices? and what joy did ye feel as goddesses rocked themselves on your leaves? Tell me ye peaceful flowers, how did they share together the delightful employment? and how did they confer together as they spun threads so various, and wove and embroidered with such fantastic grace. But ye are silent ye children of love, and are content in silence to enjoy your existence.—Be it so; instructive fable shall teach me what your tongues conceal.

The earth stood once a naked rock; when behold, a friendly band of nymphs trod upon the virgin soil, and courteous genii offered themselves to adorn the naked rock. They divided their employment among each other. Even under snow and amid cold unseemly grasses, modest *Humility* began and wove the retiring violet. *Hope* followed her and filled with cooling vapours the little calix of the refreshing *Hyacinth*; these succeeding so well, there now came a proud and pompous train of gaudy fair ones; the tulip raised her head; the narcissus looked around with eyes languishing in vain.

Many other nymphs and goddesses busied themselves in various ways adorning the earth and triumphing over its splendid show.

And now as a larger portion of their works and their own joy over them were faded, Venus addressed the graces, "And why do you delay, sisters of joy?" said she, "arise and weave out of your charms too, a mortal and visible blossom." They descended to the earth, and Aglaia, the grace of innocence, formed the lily; Thalia and Euphrosyne weaved with sisterly hand the flower of joy and of love, the virgin rose.

Many flowers of the field and of the garden envied each other; the rose and the lily envied none and were envied by all. Sister-like they bloom together upon one stem, and adorn each other. The flower of innocence heightens the charms of the bride of love and joy: for sister graces have woven them inseparably together.

On your cheeks too, ye maidens, bloom lilies and roses; may their creators and mistresses, Innocence, Love and Joy, in like manner attend you united and inseparable.

6. Sleep.

Among the innumerable Genii whom Jupiter had created to amuse and delight the short time of the laborious lives of men, was found also dark Sleep. "To what purpose am I here," said he, contemplating his own form, "amongst my more splendid and attractive brothers? How melancholy do I appear in the chorus of the sports, the joys and the wanton caprices of love! What boots it that I am desired by the unhappy, the burden of whose sufferings I take away, and whom I relieve by gentle oblivion: but as to them who never tire, who know nought of the cares of wretchedness, the circle of whose delights I only interrupt—

"Thou errest," said the father of genii and men, "in thy dark form wilt thou become the beloved genius of all mankind, for dost thou not believe that joys and sports fatigue? In reality they tire sooner than care and wretchedness, and transform themselves for the satiated in bliss, into the most wearisome satiety."

"Neither shalt thou be without delights," he continued, "thou shalt even oft surpass all thy brothers in them." With these words he presented to him the silver-grey horn of pleasant dreams. "Scatter out of this," said he, "thy seed: of slumber, and the happy as well as unhappy shall love and wish for thee more than for all thy brothers. The ethereal hopes, the loves and the joys which lie in it, have been gathered by thy sisters the graces with enchanted hand out of our most blissful gardens. The ethereal dew which shines upon them, will animate with *his own* wish, every one whom thou nearest to render happy; and as the goddess of love has besprinkled them with our immortal nectar; hence the delight they give to mortals will be more graceful and delicate, than all the poor realities which the earth can afford. Out of the chorus of the most blooming sports and joys, they will gladly hasten into thy arms: poets

will sing thee, and in their songs strive to imitate the enchantment of thy art: even the innocent maiden will wish for thee, and thou wilt rest on her eyes, a sweet and blissful deity."

The complaint of sleep was changed to triumphant thanks, and he was united *with the most beautiful* of the graces, *Pasithea*.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORKNEY ISLANDS,

Written in Latin by Joseph Ben, a native, in the year 1529.

THE first island is *North Ronaldsay*: To the north it is on a level with the sea, and occasions frequent shipwrecks to the English and other navigators: it is about four miles in circumference, and about sixty from Kirkwall. The people are wholly ignorant of the divine truths, because they are seldom instructed. There is great plenty of grain here, particularly barley and oats. In winter the inhabitants live on barley bread, and in summer, on small fish and milk. In the northern part of the island, very large animals, called in the native language *selchis*, are caught in hempen nets; there is also a large rock called *Selchskerry*, about half a mile from land, where sea-fowl haunt, and build their nests.

In this rock the sea monsters just now mentioned mount to the top when the sea is high, but when it falls they sink into a pit, from whence they can by no means escape, for there is no passage; the peasants finding them entrapped, collect about the rock; the monsters on seeing this rush, upon them open mouthed, attack them by main force, and as it were provoke them to the combat. If the first of these monsters be unhurt, all the rest fall upon the men with their teeth; but if the first be killed, the others take to flight, and are easily caught. I have seen fifty of them taken together.

They have no fuel but dried seaweeds and turf, which sends out very little light in the fire; the light which they use in winter is made of fishes' entrails; they sometimes make, however, an excellent fire of the dung of

their cattle, dried in the sun. Neither frogs, dormice, or toads exist here; if a ship chanced to bring dormice, they immediately perish as if they were poisoned.

Sanday, 2.

So called as if the sandy isle, because it abounds with sand, it is about two miles distant from the former: this island is about twelve miles in length, and two in breadth. The English and Germans are very frequently shipwrecked here, in a part towards the east, called the Star of Lopeness.

As I was once passing through the island, and fatigued, I betook myself to a church called Holy-cross, where I saw in a cemetery a number of human heads, above a thousand, greater than any three heads of people now living, and I drew some teeth out of the gums, which were larger than filberts. I was very much surprized, and being desirous of gratifying my curiosity, I had recourse to an old man, from whom I enquired what bones these were, and why they remained unburied? he replied, my son, this island was formerly subject to the people of Stronsay, to whom we paid an annual tribute, that we might live unmolested, as we were an unwarlike nation; at length we were nearly exhausted by the payment, and began to consider how we could free ourselves from it.

Then one more prudent than the rest said; "the day of payment is at hand; let us all conceal ourselves in the church, and fall upon our enemies unawares, when they come, so that not one of them escape"—to this all assented. On the appointed day, the people of Stronsay, with their wives, sons, daughters, servants, friends, and many others, having weighed anchor and set sail with a favourable breeze, came unarmed to our shores, where, after having disembarked, they spent the greater part of the day in dancing and festivity. In the mean time the people of Sanday, we who live in this island, rushed out, and being provided with suitable weapons, we attacked them, with loud shouts and a dreadful noise, and put them all to death. Thus were we liberated, and we never paid tribute since.

Both old and young, in the two islands are so much afflicted with ver-

min, that they can never be cured. Rabbits are plenty here in summer, and in winter become so tame as to be caught in the houses. The common people wear shoes made of hides, fastened with a leather strap, called in the language of the country, *Riffings*.

Stronsay, 3.

Stronsay, or Sdronsay, is so called, as if the Streams' isle. This island is six miles in length and four in breadth. One half of it is barren. Some of the inhabitants worship a god called Tuidas, others do not. They have great belief in fairies, and say that men dying suddenly, *spend their life with them afterwards*, but this I do not believe.

Papa Stronsay, 4.

This is but a small island at a short distance from the last mentioned, its name signifies the little Stronsay. There is but one inhabitant here. In the middle of the island is a lake.

Auskerry, 5.

Another uncultivated island, where there is a breed of very wild horses.

Shapinsay, 6.

Shapinsay, the shipping Isle. The people living here are very impious: they worship the fairies, and other wicked beings; it is about six miles in length and two in breadth. Thither flow the seas by which sailors enter Kirkwall.

Floerholme, 7.

This island is now uninhabited, but the ruins of houses and marks of tillage are still visible, and also a chapel. The following is the cause of its ruin and desolation. Two brothers dwelt here, the one a believer, the other an infidel; on a dispute which arose between them, the latter accused his brother before the bishop, of cohabiting with his kinswoman; the bishop, when he had examined the cause, being greatly enraged, banished them both. Their wives, on quitting the island, knelt down and cursed it, wherefore no one has tiled it to the present day.

Westray, 8.

Westray, or the Western isle, is the most fertile of all the Orkades: some noble families dwell here. It has also an excellent fort or castle, but it is not yet completely finished. The people of this island having had an engagement with the Lewismen, were routed

and killed to a man. One, however, remarkable for his strength and courage, fought for a long time after his comrades were slain; but at length his legs being cut off, he was forced to take to his knees while the battle lasted. In this island there is a very high mountain.

Papa Westray, 9.

Papa Westray signifies the little Western isle; it is subject to the former isle, and equally fertile with the rest. There is a lake in the very centre of this island, and in the lake an island in which is one little kid.

Faray, 10.

Faray, the pleasant isle. This island is very suitable for cattle, particularly cows, which feed through the pastures with great melody; the boys here sing along with the cattle. The whole island abounds with grain and fishes.

Eday, 11.

Eday was formerly the richest of all the northern islands, about thirty farmers lived in it, but were so completely extirpated by some invaders, that scarcely one is left. There is a great abundance of all things, particularly cattle. The men very often have battles with great sea monsters. The island is about ten miles in circumference.

Egilschay, 12.

Egilschay, the Kirk-isle, is one mile in length and about half a mile in breadth; in it is a church dedicated to St. Magnus. This Saint was born and educated during his infancy here, and gave a house and a lot of ground to his nurse, where she has built a chapel, in which she made a chamber in the ground, with a bed, table and seat, and other things necessary for a house, all of stone; the house is now destroyed, and corn grows over the place where it was, but the furniture still remains.

Rousay, 13.

Rousay, or the island of Rauland, is a large island, but the greatest part of it is uncultivated. It is about eight miles in circumference, and has some lofty mountains, where fires are seen very often lighted up at night in a very wonderful manner, without the assistance of men.

Weir, 14.

Weir is a small island, dedicated to the apostle Peter. It is so screened by

the other islands, that it can scarcely be seen. A huge giant formerly dwelt here, the remains of whose house are yet in existence. Some say that this island was made of St. Magnus's boat, when he was escaping to the island of Egilshay.

Enhallow, 15.

Enhallow, the holy island, is very small; the antients pretended that if the corn was reaped after sunset, drops of blood would immediately flow from the stalks; others say that if a horse be tied up here at sunset, it will be seen walking at liberty all night. But you may easily see that these are fictitious and fabulous stories.

Gursay, 16.

A small mount rises in the middle of this island. The husbandmen inhabit a small part near the sea-shore.

Damsay, 17.

In this island there is no hill; it is the most temperate of all, and is by some called Tempe. There is a church in this island, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, much frequented by women. The women here are barren, and if at any time they become pregnant, they never survive the parturition. It is said that their eyebrows sometimes drop off in the course of an hour, but are afterwards restored. This island is two miles distant from Kirkwall.

Pomonia, 18.

Pomonia, so named, as if the middle of the apple, because it lies between the north and south isles, is also called Mainland. It contains many parishes, of which the following is a description: *Dierness*, or the ness of diers. This parish was formerly woody, and infested by many wild animals; but the trees were torn up by the roots by a flood, and overwhelmed. In the northern part of this parish is a natural rock in the sea, to the top of which people climb on their hands and knees with great difficulty; there is on it a chapel called the Bairs of Brugh. Men, both old and young, boys, and servants without number, flock together here from all the islands, and when they have arrived, they ascend the rock, as I have just said, barefooted, and praying, where but one at a time can come to the chapel. In it there is a pure and clear fountain, which indeed is truly wonderful. There

the men, with bent knees and uplifted hands, doubting the powers of God, pray to the Bairns of Brugh, with many incantations, throwing stones and water behind their backs, and going twice or three times round the chapel: when their prayers are done they return home, satisfied that their desires will be granted. They do not worship God here in purity.

In the year 1506, John Stewart landed in the Orkneys, and discovered a gold mine in this parish; when he had loaded two ships, and was preparing cargoes for others, and was in the mine with the workmen, a raven cried out three times with a loud voice. The leader, and some others, immediately came out, but five were left behind, upon whom the rock fell with a great crash, destroying those within, while the rest were saved.

St. Andrew. This is a large parish, abounding in grain; there is nothing remarkable recorded concerning it, except what befel a very celebrated man, called James Sinclair, who lived here, and engaged in a war with the people of Caithness, as will be mentioned hereafter. This noble general being taken, ran mad, and throwing himself into the sea, ended his life in this melancholy manner.

Holm and Paplay. These two parishes are united, and the same church serves both. Travellers going to the southern parts are ferried across from hence.

St. Olaus. This is a very flourishing and beautiful parish; in the middle of which stands a town named Kirkwall, in which is a church dedicated to St. Magnus. Here also is a castle formerly built by the Sinclares; also another church, which was burned to the ground by the English, called St. Olaus's Church, where malefactors are now buried.

The women here are much addicted to pleasure, which I attribute to the abundance of fish. In this parish is a very lofty mountain, called Wisford, whence all Pomona and the other lands are visible. It is a sign of war among the Orcades, when the fountain in its summit begins to burst forth.

Frith is another parish, where oysters are caught in abundance.

Stenhouse. In this parish is a large lake, twenty-four miles in circuit. In

a sepulchre in a hillock near the lake, were found the bones of a man, joined together, fourteen feet long, as my author says, and money was found there under his head. I myself saw the sepulchre. In the same place, near a lake, are lofty and broad stones, about a spear's length in height, enclosing a circuit of about half a mile.

In the year 1527, a war arose between the people of Caithness and the Orkneys: the former invaded the island with all their forces, with spears, darts, arrows, and the sound of trumpets. But, while these things were doing, the people of Pomona marched out to meet them, and the armies joined on a mountain of this parish near Bexwell. The invaders were all overthrown and slaughtered, so that not one escaped. The Earl's sepulchre is still to be seen in that place; he was grandfather to the present count. The people of Orkney returned in triumph to the city, under the command of James Sinclair, of whom we have already spoken. The plain where this battle was fought is called Symmerdan.

Orpher is another parish, affording a good harbour for fishermen.

Stromness has an excellent harbour, and an excellent outlet for a fleet. The French and Spaniards often escape tempests here, as no winds can injure vessels in this harbour. This port is called Cairstane, because it is fortified with stone. Healthy winds, called etesian, blow here. Here also is a most dangerous bridge to travellers, called the bridge of Vaith, where many are lost.

Sandwich abounds with rabbits; it is the largest of all the parishes, and entirely cultivated.

Bersa is called a barony; in it is a noble palace, where the king of the Orkneys formerly lived; but when Julius Cæsar governed the whole world, he was carried by force to Rome, and his kingdom was afterwards subject to the Romans, as the inscription on one stone proves. The king's name was Gavus.

Haray is another parish, where there are a set of most worthless drones, who are therefore called the sheep of Haray. Here is a great church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, called by the common People the Lady of Grace;

concerning which many fables are told. Many flock hither from the other islands.

Eric, another parish where whales enter freely. It enjoys great abundance of corn.

Rendal. This parish was subject to the lord of Tulliallan, and he was lord of it, as his house still testifies.

The length of Pomonia, from the Bairs of Brugh to the Brugh of Birsay, contains sixteen miles. There are about five thousand men capable of bearing arms in Pomonia, and as many in the islands. It has abundance of barley and oats; the men are very much addicted to drink and luxury, and often quarrel with one another. For example, when one neighbour invites another, if the guest be not sick before he departs, he quarrels with his host, until he is sent home drunk. This is also the custom in the islands. They are very crafty and cunning, and use a dialect peculiar to themselves.

Copinsshaw, 19.

Copinshaw is a small island, the first which is seen by those sailing to the Orkneys. One farmer resides on it. It has a lofty rock towards the east, on the sides of which wild fowl are taken, by letting down boys with ropes from the summit.

South Ronaldsay, 20.

South Ronaldsay, another island, where the men are very strong. It has a temple near the sea shore, in which is a very hard stone, commonly called a Grey Whin, six feet long and four broad, in which is the mark of two naked feet, that no workman could have carved. The old people say, that a Frenchman having been banished from his country, embarked on board a ship as an asylum; but a violent storm arising, the vessel was wrecked; he however, leaping on the back of a sea-monster, stood there humbly praying to God, and vowing that if he was carried safe to land he would build a church in memory of his preservation, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. His prayer was heard, and he came safe to shore. The monster by whose assistance he was preserved, was afterwards changed into a stone, and placed by the Frenchman in the church, where it still remains, as I have already said.

Lambholme, 21.

This is a very small, barren and uncultivated isle, in which great numbers of rabbits are killed by the men of the neighbouring islands.

Klotay, 22.

This island is level with the sea, and very beautiful. In it are the ruins of an old house, which some call a church, others a presbytery, of great length, where annual assemblies of the clergy were held. Three monuments are erected here, which we call crosses.

Cavay, 23.

Cavay, or the cheese island, noted for its excellent cheese. It is small, but very convenient for cattle and trees, on account of it being sheltered from the winds. There is on it one house with two cottages.

Faray, 24.

Faray, or the fair island. There are two of this name, the other is near Shetland. The island is barren and uncultivated, but celebrated for its fishery.

Sownay, 25.

Sownay affords a safe shelter for foreign ships and fishermen. Oats and barley grow here, though the soil is very sandy. Not far from Kirkness is Braga, well known to mariners.

Ryssay, 26.

A sandy, barren and uncultivated island. Here formerly was the best land in all the Orkneys.

Burray, 27.

Burray, or the Burge island, is small but abounding in barley.

Wais, 28.

The Pomonians call the inhabitants of this island the Lyars of Wais; the island is not large. There is no division between Hoy and Wais, it is one island at the ebbing of the tide.

Hoy, 29.

Here is a very lofty mountain, three miles in height, to the top of which there is no means of ascending, also another not so lofty. Between these is a stone worthy of notice; it is very large and high, and is said to have been shaped by a giant and his wife. One stone is a chamber, in which is a bed, very ingeniously made in the stone by the man and woman; during the time of their sleeping here the woman was pregnant, as the stone testifies, for

that part of the bed where she lay, retains the shape of a pregnant woman. If it may be credited, birch grows in this island, but not in the others; for they are all without trees. Here are white hares, which are hunted with dogs. In it is also abundance of birds called Leris, also of fish and other kinds of fowl.

It contains likewise mines of gold, lead and iron, and many other valuable things.

Gransay, 30.

A small island, but well-cultivated; very dangerous for ships.

Southay, 31.

Southay, or the southern island, is now uncultivated, but formerly abounded with cattle. All the natives ended their lives on the same day. This is no fable, but a real fact worthy of the notice of christians. On the festival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, as they had no church of their own, they were obliged to go to a neighbouring island; and having embarked in a boat, both old and young, a sudden storm arose, and the vessel sunk through the violence of the waves. Upon which all the cattle in the island, oxen, sheep, calves, swine, dogs, whelps, and every other living creature, plunged themselves with the greatest fury into the sea, and were drowned, since which time no one has inhabited the island.

OF THE HUSBANDRY OF THE ORKNEYS,

Taken from another manuscript annexed to the preceding.

They till not till the spring of the year, and as they till so they sow their oats. Their plough is drawn by four beasts going side by side. The caller, or driver, goes before the beasts backwards with a whip. The holder of the plough lies on with his side on the fough; the coulter and the sock be of two pound in weight; the oxen be yoked with chealts, and haims and reachens, which they call weassis, be it they have horns. They sow in creel made of straw, they call ane issie, and of ane handful they make an cast.

Their horses live on bear-chaff, and grow exceeding fat on the same. They are very little, but quick and fiery. The men here keep the observations of the moon in so far, that they stall their carts at the waxing of the moon affirming they grow in the barrel.

Their calves never suck their mothers. Their cons are very good, to wit, bere and oats. They are handled only by the men; the women neither shake the straw, nor yet winnow the corn. They good their land with seaware, and lightly midden muck.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IT is with great satisfaction that I observe the pages of your Magazine occasionally occupied with philosophical disquisitions, on subjects connected with the arts which adorn human life. You cannot have a nobler object than that of endeavouring to introduce improvements into the several branches of useful science; and attention to the subject will justly intitle you to the thanks of a judicious and discerning public.

I am sensible, that every thing connected with philosophy and the arts has been so fully investigated by professional men of the brightest talents, that it is no easy matter to discover any thing entitled to the character of a real improvement; and that few but those who devote their lives to the study of nature can hope to have the merit of raising science to a higher pitch of perfection. But unquestionably that man is fairly entitled to the character of a philosopher, who diligently follows the footsteps of those that have successfully applied themselves to the investigation of the phenomena of the natural and moral worlds, though he may not be able, by mounting to nobler heights in the arduous paths of science, to lay claim to the highest meed of literary renown. And therefore we should not abandon philosophical pursuits, because we despair of equalling those who have gone before us. We should endeavour to improve our own minds, by the labours of others. To obtain literary fame is the happy lot but of a few—to make some progress in the several branches of useful and commercial learning, is in the power of all.

But many seem to have no natural taste for philosophical subjects, and require to have the beauties of science pointed out, and recommended to their attention. Your correspondents therefore cannot be improperly or unprofitably employed, when they

endeavour to present to the view of our ingenious countrymen, sketches of the philosophy of nature in an agreeable and engaging form. Such pourtrayings of science, even though imperfectly executed, may tend to excite curiosity, to raise youthful genius to aspire after high distinction, and to promote a taste for those studies, which most contribute to the improvement of the human mind.—This position seems well illustrated by the effect which was produced on the public mind and taste by some of the writings of the Bishop of Llandaff. It is well known, that the elegant Chemical Essays of that learned and excellent philosopher, tended to inspire all ranks with a desire of making inquiries into a most delightful and useful branch of, natural philosophy, and to promote a taste for chemical researches that was before unknown.

I observe in your Number for February, a paper on the subject of *specific gravity*, in which the author describes an instrument for ascertaining specific gravities which he invented, and gives a brief account of the general doctrine. As inquiries of this nature are interesting, and cannot be supposed familiar to many of your readers, I shall claim your indulgence while I make a few additional observations, with a view of making the subject as plain and intelligible as possible.

The solution of the problem respecting King Hiero's crown is the first discovery which was made respecting specific gravity. As it forms a very good explanatory introduction to the general doctrine, I shall make no apology for laying some account of it before the reader.

Hiero king of Syracuse had employed a goldsmith to make him a crown, and furnished him with a wedge of pure gold, of a certain weight, for that purpose. The crown was made, and the weight of it found correct. Yet, judging by the colour of the metal, Hiero suspected that the goldsmith had kept back part of the gold, and made up the weight by alloying the crown with some less valuable metal. But the king not knowing how to discover whether his suspicions were well founded or

not, referred the matter to *Archimedes*, the most celebrated geometrician of the age. As the subject was altogether new to him, he was for some time unable to devise any method of detecting the imposition. What the philosopher was unable to accomplish by laborious study, was however discovered by means of an accidental observation.

It happened, one day, that as he was stepping into the bath, he observed that the water rose in the bath, in proportion as he descended, and was immersed to a greater depth. From this observation he took a hint, with which he was so much transported, that he jumped out of the bath, and ran about naked, crying out, in an extacy of joy, I have found it! I have found it! He concluded instantly, that on going into the bath, he had raised the water just as high as any thing else would have done, that was exactly of his bulk: and consequently considering, that any other body of equal weight but of less bulk than himself, could not have raised the water so high as he did, he immediately told the king he had discovered a method of solving the problem respecting the adulteration of the crown.—The method which he adopted appears to have been as follows.—He procured a ball of pure gold and another of silver exactly of equal weight with the crown, and argued thus—if the crown be altogether gold, it will be exactly of equal bulk with the ball of gold and when immersed in water will raise the water exactly to the same height as the ball when immersed: but if it were wholly silver, the ball of silver when immersed would raise the water higher than the crown immersed, and therefore if the crown consist of gold and silver mixed in a certain proportion, it will when immersed raise the water less high than a ball of silver of the same weight and higher than the ball of gold for gold being, the heaviest of known metals, contains greater weight under the same bulk than any other metal.—Accordingly he detected the adulteration, by finding that the crown raised the water higher, on immersing

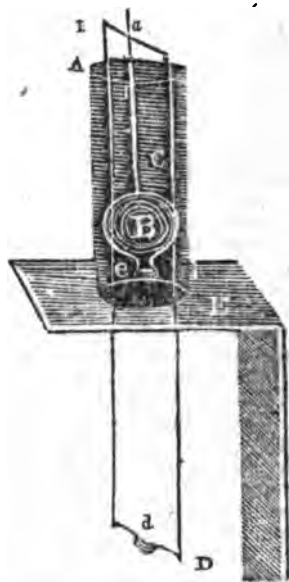
than the ball of gold, though not so high as the ball of silver: and by making trials with different metals, he at length ascertained the quantity of alloy which the crown contained.

If, instead of marking the *heights* to which the masses of gold and silver raised the water on immersion, Archimedes had estimated their respective *weights* when immersed in water, he would have been able to have solved the problem with greater ease and exactness. For a solid immersed in a fluid loses a proportion of its weight equal to the weight of the quantity of fluid displaced. If a body be weighed in air, and then in water, the equilibrium of the balance is instantly destroyed on immersion: and the weight which restores the equilibrium is equal to the weight of a quantity of water of equal bulk with the immersed solid. Thus, if a guinea weigh, in air, 129 grains, and if, on immersion, it requires $7\frac{1}{4}$ grains added to it to restore the equilibrium, this shows, that a quantity of water equal to the bulk of a guinea weighs $7\frac{1}{4}$ grains. Now had Archimedes weighed in water the crown and gold ball, which he found of equal weight in air, he would have found that on immersion, the one was heavier than the other. The pure gold, not being equal in bulk to the mixture of which the crown was made, would have displaced a less quantity of water, and of course would have lost less of its weight than the crown; and it would thence have been apparent, that the crown had been alloyed with some metal of inferior value, and whose *specific gravity* was less than that of pure gold.

Specific gravities were formerly ascertained by an instrument called the *hydrostatic balance*, which differed from the common balance only in being of very nice construction, and having a hook at the bottom of each scale, on which small weights might be hung by horse-hairs, or silk threads. This instrument was improved, by appending to one end of the beam a glass ball for ascertaining the specific gravity of fluids, and a

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glass bucket for ascertaining that of solids. But latterly the form of the instrument has been entirely changed, by the attempts of various ingenious men, to reach perfection. Of the several instruments which have been contrived, that of Mr. Nicholson, as improved by Mr. Laurie of Glasgow, appears to be the best. It is termed *hydrometer*, and can very conveniently be employed both for fluids and solids. The instrument at first consisted simply of a glass ball, to which a small rod, having a little bucket or cup for containing weights was fixed at top, and likewise a small cup for the same use at bottom. One defect of this instrument was, that it was readily upset. To remedy this inconvenience, Mr. Laurie added two bars, which extend to a considerable length below the body of the instrument, and which by bearing weights, in a small cup, at the lowest part, throw the center of gravity so low, that the instrument always remains in its proper position. This will be better apprehended by a particular description.



A, E, is a glass vessel for containing water and other fluids; I, D, is a small metal frame, which encompasses

the glass vessel, A, E, and has the glass ball B, connected with it, by the small metal rod *a, c*; *d*, is a small cup at the lower part of the frame, for containing weights; *e*, is another small cup, which is fastened to the glass ball, and which is used for the same purpose. The instrument is so constructed, that 1000 grains put into the cup *d*, shall bring down the glass ball B, till the rod *a, c*, be half immersed in the standard fluid—viz. distilled water, at the temperature of 60° Fahrenheit. The rod *a, c*, is graduated by experiments made for the purpose, so as to correspond with weights put into the cup *d*.

Let it be supposed now, that I want to know the specific gravity of any fluid. I pour a sufficient quantity of it into the vessel A, E, and mark the point of the rod *a, c*, where the fluid strikes, on the glass ball being immersed in it. This determines immediately the ratio of specific gravity between it and the standard fluid. Or, put into the cup *d* weights sufficient to bring the rod *a, c*, to the point at which it stands, when the standard fluid is employed—This determines the point as before. Suppose 900 grains produce this effect;—The ratio is as 900 to 1000—That is the specific gravity of the fluid is 9 the standard fluid being taken as 1.

But let it be required to determine the specific gravity of any solid. Pour distilled water into the vessel A, E; take the weights out of the lower scale *d*, and put in the solid, whose specific gravity is required. Admit that the solid employed is not sufficient to bring the rod *a, c*, to the zero point, and that I find 100 grains additional are necessary to produce this effect: this determines that the absolute weight of the mass is 900 grains. Take now the substance out of the scale *d*, and put it into the scale *e*, it loses a part of its weight, which of course is the weight of a quantity of water of equal bulk. Put weights into the lower scale, to restore the equilibrium, then the proposition is—“As the loss sustained is to the absolute weight, so is the specific gravity of the fluid to that of the solid.”—Thus, a guinea

weighs in air 129 grains; it loses in water 7.25: therefore $7.25:129::1.000:17.793$, the specific gravity of gold. The meaning of which is, that a guinea is 17.793 times as heavy as its bulk of water.

By the hydrometer I can likewise ascertain the exact proportion of metals in any compound. Suppose I wish to determine how much alloy there is in a guinea, or what proportions of copper and pure gold there are in guinea-gold. By experiment, I find the specific gravity of guinea-gold to be 17.793, and I know, by the tables, that the specific gravity of fine gold is 19.637, and that of copper 8.843. I then subtract the specific gravity of copper from that of the compound, and the specific gravity of the compound from that of gold—The first remainder shows the bulk of gold, and the latter the bulk of copper, in the whole compound—These I multiply by the respective specific gravities, and the products show the proportion of weights of each metal in the compound.

from 17.793 specific gravity of compound,
take 8.843 specific gravity of copper,
8.950 bulk of gold in the compound.

and from 19.637 specific gravity of gold,
take 17.793 specific gravity of compound,
1.844 bulk of copper in the compound.

there 8.950×19.637 gives 175.75 proportion of gold,

and 1.844×8.843 gives 16.3 proportion of copper,
Or 22 to 2 nearly.

Thus I find that in guinea-gold, for every 22 parts of pure gold there are 2 parts of copper. This experiment may be extended to any compound metal; and thus it will be easy to determine, whether a suspected metal be genuine or counterfeit.

I shall conclude this paper by remarking, that though many persons may never have occasion to make experiments respecting specific gravities, yet it must be pleasant for all to know something of the subject. An acquaintance with the general doctrine will frequently be found serviceable in reading and in conversation. At all events, inquiries of this nature form a pleasing and useful exercise for the powers of the human mind.

A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

WE have been favoured with the sight of a letter from an officer in Portugal to his relations in this country, and been permitted to make the following interesting extracts from it. We doubt not but it will prove acceptable to our readers, as it conveys the information in so neat and lively a manner.

Lumiera, March 2, 1809.

"I had a long spell of the complaints which are so prevalent in this country, and you will not wonder at my being in a particularly good humour, when you hear that I am at this moment sitting, enjoying as a convalescent, one of the loveliest days you can conceive; my room full of geraniums, in full blossom; woodbine, carnations, &c; as delightful a view as you could wish of the whole country, full of orange groves in blossom, olive plantations, vineyards, &c. Could I convey, *by a wish*, those I wish for, and place them beside me, I should have nothing left to desire, and I can assure you that my thoughts are oftener turned on the fire-side of home, than perhaps a soldier's ought. We remain here in as much tranquillity, and hear the different reports of the advance of the French with as much composure as if it were none of our business to oppose them; however, we have now some likelihood of advancing; our baggage is again curtailed; mules ordered to be provided immediately, and I hope that a very few days will see us in motion. Our route this time will be different, which I am glad of, as it will give us an opportunity of seeing more of the country. A march now will be delightful, the weather is as warm as in July, and the spring very far advanced. I fancy there is no doubt that the French are advancing three columns, making in all thirty or forty thousand men, a number we shall be more than a match for, as General Aberbrooke has brought a reinforcement, and we have now upwards of twenty thousand English in Portugal. The whole army, with the exception of a few regiments who garrison Lisbon, are in cantonments, ten or twelve miles distance from it. Did I tell you that I had been at that sweet place Cintra, where I passed two days with a very pleasant party, rambling about, and seeing all the Moorish and Roman an-

tiquities, with some very ancient convents? One of the latter which is perched on the very top of the highest rock in Lisbon, has a very beautiful altar of alabaster, which contains (in what I believe you call *al-fresco*) the whole history of our Saviour's sufferings, and some of his principal actions. The priest who showed it to us, put a light behind it, and it was as transparent as glass. I also went to see the palace of Calouse, one of the Prince Regent's most favourite seats, and a most magnificent one it is. Will you believe me when I assure you, that for more than a mile and a half on the high road it is bordered with geraniums, roses and myrtles; and in the beginning of February when I went there, those flowers were in full bloom. Two officers joined us a few days since, from the 1st battalion, which is in Malta; they complain of Malta as very stupid quarters, on account of the season, which is Lent, and nothing going forward but prayers, a kind of pastime, which, as my correspondent expresses himself, the heroes in red have but little *esprit* for. With us, or at least while we were in Lisbon, it was much the same. Religious processions superseded operas, and most ridiculous things they are. Fancy some hundred of the fat race of people here, employed in carrying images of all the saints in the calendar, all of them, but the females especially, dressed out in the most tawdry style, as large as life; and faith no small burden to the carriers, who labour most piteously under the load. This show is attended by crowds of nobility and gentry of both sexes, all marching in procession through the principal streets, and what is really well worth seeing, is the number of very beautiful women, who show themselves at the windows, and in the balconies, elegantly dressed, and who kneel down as the host, or the images of their favourite saints pass. I have been but at few parties; first, from illness, and now I am ashamed to go, as an enormous Portuguese wig, *decorates* or rather *disfigures* my poor nob, which I was obliged to shave after my long confinement, as my hair was tumbling off. I often think what a prize my head, or at least the covering of it will be to some bald Frenchman, who may chance to knock it off.

"I hope to write a more interesting

letter from the frontiers. The good people here do not seem quite as secure of our triumph over the French, as we vain fellows do; at least, they are taking prudent precautions to ensure a retreat to the Brazils.

"I had contracted an intimacy with a very learned and gentleman-like French professor, at the Convent of St. Vincent's (one of the finest, by the bye, in Portugal) they have a very elegant library, immensely large, and full of the rarest and most valuable books, where I used to pass many a pleasant hour. What was my surprise on going there one day, after a fortnight's absence, while I was ill, to find every thing packed up, and ready to send aboard a ship, those prudent monks had hired to convey them at a moment's warning to the Brazils. It is the same in every private and public place. Every thing of value is removed, or ready to be so. I think that for this once if the French do beat us (which in my *humble* opinion is impossible) they will find little worth plundering in Portugal. The chapels are already pretty well stripped, and all the principal merchants are prepared to set off at a moment's warning.

"You have no doubt heard, that General Beresford is made field marshal here to instruct and organize the Portuguese troops. I shall take the liberty of sending you what I hope you have not before read, and what is in my opinion a very beautiful extract on the death of Lord Nelson. I know my father and mother will read it with great pleasure, a thought that gives me no small degree of the same sensation."

"ON LORD NELSON'S DEATH."

"Still it is impossible to reflect upon the great victory which that gallant hero purchased for us with his life, without feeling a mixed emotion of joy and sorrow, of mourning and triumph. The glory and the calamity, like the angels of Mercy and Affliction travelled together.

"At what period was that victory achieved! how seasonable! how well tuned! Whilst on the Continent, a wretched and incapable general,* had without a battle, surrendered himself alive into the hands of Buonaparte, our English hero, once more, and for

the last time fought and conquered the united foes of his country. But, he fell in the meridian of his fame, and one moment made him immortal in both worlds.

"His career of services had been long, but it was in the middle of the last war that he burst upon the public eye as a luminary of the first magnitude.

"At the battle of Aboukir, he rose like the sun in the east, and like the sun too, after a summer's day of glory, he set in the west at the battle of Trafalgar, leaving the ocean in a blaze as he went down, and in darkness when he had descended.

"In ages to come, when the stranger who visits this island, shall inquire for the monument of Nelson, the answer will be—"Behold his country which he saved."

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
PERMIT me to reply to "Farmer." (see your Magazine for March 1809, page 193, No. 8) That writer says, "the statement is fairly made on one acre in the drill, or rather bank-mode, and one acre in the lazy-bed way." Now I contend *this is not* the case; let the reader determine. The charges on one acre in the drill way, are stated at 3*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* (including forty loads of dung, 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*) The charges on one acre in the lazy-bed mode, are stated at 23*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* (including three hundred and twenty loads of dung, 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) Is there not in the latter case, charged for dung eight times the sum, and quantity charged for it in the former? To have made the comparison "fair," the dung for each process should have been alike in quality and expense, unless it be true, that in order to raise a lazy-bed crop of potatoes, exceeding a drilled one, only two barrels, eight times the dung and seed be required; also, that more than seven times the expense in labour is requisite, and that the benefit to the succeeding crops is equal. Whatever may be the opinion on the quantity and expense of dung, seed, and labour, requisite for each process; it will not be contended, I presume, that forty loads of dung will be as beneficial to the succeeding crops as three hundred and twenty loads; the *excess* ought to

* General Mack.

go to the credit of that process, to which the greater quantity was applied. There is another circumstance which makes the statement in question not fairly comparable; viz. that as the ploughing and harrowing of the drill crop are not charged, because, "they would be given the land had it been a fallow;" for the same reason, the lazy-bed mode should have been charged only with whatever expense was bestowed on it in labour for the potatoes, more than would have been bestowed had it been a fallow. How the Farmer could make such a mistake as to imagine that the last statement was a fair one for *one acre*, I am at a loss to conjecture; perhaps it arose from his taking it for granted that it was so, because the author expressly says "he has given it for one acre only;" I also might have been deceived by this assertion, had I not observed in the *next lines*, the words, "here we have *eight acres* highly dressed for a subsequent crop." It is true, he says, "with the same quantity of dung as the one acre," it is, however, a fact, that he has *charged eight times* the quantity." Certainly, no person who is acquainted with the expense of planting potatoes with the spade, can think that eight acres could be done in that way for 2l. 3s. 4d. I am in doubt whether *one acre* be done generally for that sum, indeed I am inclined to think the expenses on the *drill* method are also underrated. You have the "Farmer's," and my opinion on anonymous communications, and you will, I have no doubt, "know what value to set upon them," and while I acknowledge that, "the value of communications ought to be estimated by the importance of the subjects, and the soundness of the reasoning employed, and not by the name of the author," I hope I may be allowed

to entertain the opinion that, *unimportant* subjects, and *unsound* reasoning are more likely to come from the anonymous writer, than from him who gives his name; for this plain reason, that the latter will be more wary, as he may lose his reputation as well as have his feelings wounded, while the former can sustain only one of those mortifications. On subjects of agriculture, the name and place of abode of a writer are particularly useful, the farmer who is about adopting any system recommended, wants to be satisfied in a thousand particulars, which the author may not have noticed; many of your readers who would ride miles for such information, would not put pen to paper to obtain it; more value would be set on five minutes' conversation with the person recommending any system, than on volumes of book-information; in saying this I take it for granted "book-farming" is esteemed in this country, as little as it is in England. Although "The Farmer's Magazine, principally composed of anonymous pieces, is held in great estimation, and has materially served the cause of agriculture," it does not follow that it would not have been in *higher* estimation, and have still more served the cause of agriculture, had it not contained so many anonymous communications. Lest the "Farmer" should fancy I am a favourer of the lazy-bed mode, in preference to the drill one, I assure him I am not; it will not be easy to bring an Englishman to prefer the former, at least if profit be his object; but I find the prevailing opinion is, that if the *palate* only be consulted; the lazy-bed mode should be practised. I am Sir, your obedient servant, Wm. Gooch.

Castle-Upton, April 1809.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

AS the life of BOYSE, the poet, may not happen to be universally known, and as the detail of the errors of his life, and the consequences attendant on them, may probably be

an useful caution somewhere, I hope you will allow them a place in your valuable Miscellany. I am, Sir,

Your constant reader, W.

Newry, Dec. 10, 1808.

SAMUEL BOYSE, was the son of Joseph Boyse, a respectable dissent-

clergyman, who resided in Dublin at the commencement of the last century, and was during that period much celebrated for the controversy he carried on with King, the then Archbishop of Dublin, on episcopal authority. The son, Samuel, the subject of this memoir, was born in the metropolis, in the year 1708, where, under the protection of his father, he received the rudiments of his education, and at the age of eighteen was sent to Scotland, to qualify him, as it is to be presumed, for the same profession adopted by his father. Unhappily for young Boyse, he had not been a year in Scotland, when he was inveigled into a matrimonial connection with the daughter of an humble tradesman in the city of Glasgow, by which, in the first instance, he was completely disqualified from pursuing his necessary studies in any of the universities. To add to the difficulties of his situation, by the profligacy and extravagance of his wife, and her sister, who lived with them, he soon became so involved in his circumstances, as to be obliged to quit Scotland abruptly, and again to seek the asylum afforded to him by his father, whither he was accompanied by his wife and his sister-in-law. It is natural to suppose, that between a man, such as the elder Boyse is represented to have been, and such persons as those who accompanied his son from Scotland, there could exist but little harmony; but such was the simplicity of the one, and the refined duplicity of the other, that no circumstances, however glaring, were sufficient, to open the eyes of old Boyse. His affection to his son and his daughter-in-law continued undiminished till his death, though he had disposed of a paternal property in Yorkshire, to support their extravagance, and was in his last illness indebted to the good-nature of his congregation for the common necessities of life, and at his death was buried at their expense.

After this period, few traces of Samuel's life worth noticing are to be met with, till the year 1731, when he emerged from his obscurity, and attracted the notice of many of the literary characters in Scotland (to which place he had returned) by the publication of a small volume of poems,

and which he dedicated to the Countess of Eglington, a woman of refined taste, a general patroness of literature, and a steady and cordial friend to Boyse, during his residence in Scotland. Could the favourable reception of these effusions of his genius have operated in correcting the errors of his system of life, he might have bid fair to have reckoned the more valuable members of society amongst his friends, as we find that even with all his profligacy he contrived to secure the patronage of some of the first characters in the kingdom. On the death of Lady Stormont he drew the attention of Lord Stormont by the publication of an elegant copy of verses in praise of the deceased, entitled *The Tears of the Muses*. Unlike many elegies of the same stamp, it possessed one qualification seldom found—*truth*. As Lady Stormont was a female of unusual endowments, and a generous patroness of poetical merit, Boyse was liberally rewarded for this well-merited tribute of praise; and was likewise by this means recommended to the notice of the Dutchess of Gordon. This lady was so deeply interested in favour of Boyse, that she undertook to procure him a civil employment, and for this purpose furnished him with a commendatory letter to one of the Commissioners of Customs, as a person qualified to fill a situation at that time vacant. Of this letter, however, he made no advantage, as, from a thoughtlessness which attended all his actions, he neglected to present it till the application was too late to enable the Commissioner to grant the request which it contained. A repetition of such conduct, together with his general irregularity of life, soon brought him into universal contempt, and wearied the friendship even of those who were the warmest admirers of his poetical talent. At length finding it impossible to remain any longer in Edinburgh, he took the resolution of trying his fortune in London. On this occasion, the Dutchess of Gordon, and Lord Stormont, once more interested themselves in his favour, and furnished him with introductory letters to Mr. Pope, and some persons of the first respectability in England: with these recommendations he privately decan-

ed from Edinburgh, to avoid the importunity of his creditors. On his arrival in London, he went to Twickenham to deliver the letter of introduction to Pope; but as he happened not to be at home at the time, Boyse abandoned the idea of making a second application; and in this manner he relinquished the advantages he might otherwise have reaped from the kindness of his friends in Edinburgh. Thus shut out from respectable society, he sunk into that mode of life to which he had a natural propensity. He frequented the society of none but the lowest dregs of the people, and never showed any inclination to renew his acquaintance with those who could be of service to him, unless when stimulated to it by severity of distress; his applications, however, were always made by letters, penned in the most abject terms; and what he acquired by his mendicant epistles, was spent in the next tavern, where he generally ordered the most delicious viands and the most expensive wines, which he enjoyed by himself, at the moment that his wife and unfortunate offspring were perishing of want!

A life like Boyse's, supported by eleemosinary means, and these too irregularly supplied, could scarcely be supposed to have promised a length of years; in fact, at his thirty-second year, he was reduced to the lowest ebb of distress, without health, confined to his bed, with scarcely any covering, and depending for subsistence on the usual means he had recourse to in his difficulties, writing letters to his friends in the usual stile of abject supplication. During this interval of miserable existence, which continued for six weeks, he occasionally found employment in the Magazines, and during these moments of occupation his whole figure and situation was truly ridiculous, could he forget the miseries attending it, for whenever he prepared himself for his task, he sat upright in his bed, wrapt himself up in his blanket (the only covering or clothing he was at that time master of) and thrusting his arm through a hole made for the purpose, and placing the paper on his knee, he scribbled whatever his fancy dictated. At length he was relieved from this state of distress, by the compassionate interference of a gentleman, who took his clothes

out of the pawn-broker's; and enabled him to appear once more in public. In the year 1745, his wife died, while he was at Reading, compiling a review of the principal transactions of that period, including an account of the rebellion. This event seemed to have had a salutary effect upon his habits of life, as he became more systematic in his conduct, and seemed determined to abjure all his profligate habits; he even appears to have chosen a rank in life for himself, to which he intended to limit all his desires, as he now chose a wife from the lowest ranks of society, but one, who from her quiet demeanor, and regular habits, was likely to be a companion the best suited to his circumstances and situation. His habits became more regular, the employment of his time was arranged henceforward in a more systematic and useful manner, in writing for support, and endeavouring by exercise to restore a constitution shattered by disease and early dissipation. He had indeed proceeded so steadily in this plan of reformation, that those few friends whom compassion had still retained in his service, began to entertain the most sanguine hopes, that the brilliancy of his genius had still a chance of entertaining by its wit, and improving by its information; but all their hopes were soon blasted; his constitution had suffered too much from the irregularities of twenty years, to give any well-grounded prospect of existence lasting much longer, and after lingering for a few months, he expired in his 39th year, in the May of 1747, in a wretched garret near Shoe-lane, and before a collection could be made to defray the expense of giving his body a decent interment, it was hurried away by the parish officers, and buried without ceremony.

Boyse's appearance and manners were by no means prepossessing; to a clownishness of aspect and countenance, he added an inelegance of address, that made him shun those ranks in society, to which, from the pre-eminence of his genius, he had otherwise a right to aspire. To this perhaps might be attributed his prejudice in favour of low society, rather than to any natural inclination. He felt, and feelingly too, the consequence attached to a pleas-

ing address and appearance, and never cared to exhibit himself to those whose favour he wished to conciliate, except through a medium that could not excite their prejudices. Hence it was that his applications to the great were uniformly made by letter; and as he was naturally social (except in the moment of gratifying his gluttony) he fell into that society where he was liable to feel no restraint,

His publications are numerous, and are written with so much taste, and so much in the true spirit of poetry, that it may well be a matter of surprize they have not long since been published. His more considerable productions, and the times of their publication are as follow:

A Poem on Liberty, which was printed in the Dublin Journal, in	1726
The Tabula Cebetis	ditto
The Tears of the Muses	Edin. 1732
Albion's Triumph	Lond. 1743
Translation of Fenelon's Existence of a God.	Lond. 1745
Attributes of the Deity, a Poem, particularly noticed in Harrey's Meditations,	1765
Recantation	1746

And many others on subjects of minor importance, the majority of which are interspersed in the Gentleman's Magazine, marked Y, and *Alcæus*.

LIFE OF THE EARL OF MACARTNEY.

GEORGE MACARTNEY, the descendant of a respectable family, which had settled in the county of Antrim in the year 1649, was born at the family mansion, at Lissanoure, in the year 1737. The early part of most lives are too uniform to afford much entertainment or instruction, and may in general be best passed over, unless we can discover the circumstances, often unimportant in themselves, that determine the bent by which the character of the man was afterwards swayed. At an early period of his life young Macartney was put under the care of a clergyman named Dennis, whose library consisted mostly of books of theology, together with a few on heraldry and genealogy. These last attracted the boy's attention, and the early exercise of his memory excited by them, strengthened it to a degree for which he was ever after remarkable.

After passing through the usual course of academical studies, he finished his education according to the custom usual at that time, by a Continental tour. But when he thus conformed with the fashion of the day, he did not consider the tour in the same light as is too general, as the termination of a course of studies, and intended principally to wear off the habits acquired at colleges, but rather as the commencement of another course which was to prepare him for the part he afterwards designed to support in public. He visited most of the European courts, and acquired on the spot, an extensive and correct knowledge of their strength, resources, revenue and other points necessary for a politician to be acquainted with. Among other valuable acquaintances he then acquired, may be ranked the celebrated Voltaire, who not only expressed a strong degree of partiality towards him, but is said to have maintained a correspondence with him on his return to England.

He was soon afterwards returned to parliament for the borough of Midhurst, under the auspices of the Holland family. But he was soon called away from his parliamentary duty to one of a more important nature. After the revolution which placed Catherine II. on the throne of Russia, England was very desirous of forming an alliance with that power, principally from commercial views. The former commercial treaty had expired in the year 1734, during the reign of the Empress Elizabeth, who, though she declined renewing it, acquiesced in the continuation of its articles. But Catherine immediately after her accession, gave a positive denial, when pressed on the subject by Lord Buckingham, on the grounds that it was not intended to enter into an exclusive alliance with any power.

Under these circumstances was Sir George Macartney (for he received the honour of Knighthood on his appointment) selected to effect a treaty which had baffled the diplomatic skill of several former statesmen. The preference was given him, not only on account of his knowledge of European politics, but through the hope that in a female court his external attractions and suavity of manner

ers might weigh more than great, but rigid and unbending talents.

Immediately on his arrival at Petersburg he was admitted to a public audience. On this occasion he concluded a speech of some length with these expressions, "forgive me, madam, if I here express my own particular satisfaction in having been chosen for an employment as pleasing as it is important. By this means I shall have the happiness of contemplating more nearly those extraordinary accomplishments, those heroic virtues, which make you the delight of that half of the globe over which you reign, and the admiration of the other." This compliment was not without its effect; it drew from the Czarina an extempore reply, couched in such expressions as did not fail to attract the notice, and raise the envy, of several of the surrounding envoys.

His first step was to gain the friendship of Count Panin, sole minister of Catherine. In this he was completely successful. During the whole course of his mission he was distinguished by unequivocal marks of that nobleman's esteem. The Count frequently expressed his surprise at the extensive knowledge of so young a man, and even went so far as to acknowledge the advantage he had derived from his information concerning the other courts of Europe; and the commercial relations of Russia and Great Britain. Having gained this great point, without which he could have little hopes of success, for Panin was not only the principal, but the confidential minister of his mistress, he proceeded to develop the object of his mission. In the course of it unexpected difficulties presented themselves. The object of the Russian court then was to form a confederacy of the northern powers, of which Russia was to be the centre, for which purpose it would be necessary to secure a majority in the Swedish Diet, that could only be procured by a large subsidy. The Empress also was determined to enter into no treaty, of which a war with Turkey did not form a part. In that already concluded with Denmark, the latter power agreed to pay a subsidy of 500,000

roubles a year to Russia, and it was intimated that if England wished to obtain the commercial advantages now looked for, she must also concur in these two points by contributing largely to secure the good-will of the Swedes, and by paying a subsidy in case of a war between Turkey and Russia. These articles which did not depend on the ambassador himself, retarded the progress of the business very much; the difficulty was increased by a jealousy which had arisen in the mind of Catherine against the English Court, for an apparent neglect of proposals made to it, in the course of the former endeavour to conclude a similar treaty. They were at length overcome. At the end of four months, by assiduity and perseverance, the treaty of commerce was brought to a conclusion on terms which the English ministry had not ventured to hope for, and such as the merchants concerned in the trade were perfectly satisfied with.

So sensible was he of the advantageous terms he had procured, and fearful of any change in the sentiments of the Russian court, that he determined to take upon himself the whole responsibility, and signed the treaty previous to its being sent to England for the royal approbation. When first received in that country; it was viewed with much satisfaction; but shortly after he was informed that a material objection arose from a passage in one of the clauses which seemed to infringe upon the navigation act in Britain. Sir George's diplomatic abilities were now put to a new trial. Neither court would yield. Three times was the treaty new-modelled and sent to England, and as often was it returned.

The Empress at length was so disgusted at what she conceived to be either an unworthy trifling on the part of England, or a desire to interfere in the internal arrangements of her empire with respect to navigation, that she determined to break off all further communication, and gave directions for a *ukase* to be prepared, revoking the declaration of Elizabeth in favour of the British merchants. With great difficulty did the English ambassador prevail on her minister to delay this

step, and at length succeeded in new-modelling the exceptionable clause, so as to leave out the words which gave such offence to the English ministry, without altering its import as it related to Russia*.

Conscious of the importance of the point thus gained, and of the danger of some new change in the present irritated state of the feelings of Russia, he again risked his personal safety for the public service, and signed the treaty a second time.

Shortly after the final ratification of this treaty he was recalled, and Mr. Stanley appointed to succeed him; this appointment, however, did not continue, for Mr. Stanley soon gave in his resignation, and the English ministry, who at length seemed to be sensible of the advantageous terms procured for the commerce of their country, by Sir George's exertions, nominated him a second time to the same embassy. This, however, he declined, and returned to England to enjoy the pleasures of temporary retirement, after a laborious and painful exertion for the public good. During his residence at Petersburg, he had opportunities of performing many signal services to Stanislaus, King of Poland, by discovering, and in some measure counteracting the unjust artifices of the King of Prussia towards

that country. As an acknowledgment of these services, he received from that monarch the ensigns of the order of the White Eagle.

In the year 1768, Sir George Macartney was married to the second daughter of the Earl of Bute. He did not however continue long unemployed in the public service. It was a maxim with him never to decline a duty imposed upon him by his country, which his health or abilities enabled him to fulfil. An opportunity soon occurred, in which his assistance was thought useful, and he again resumed a public character. It had hitherto been the custom in Ireland for the lord lieutenant to visit his government but once in two years, and after residing there a few months, to return to England, leaving the management of public affairs in the hands of the primate, lord chancellor, and speaker of the house of commons: these three persons were stiled lords justices, but were better known in Ireland by the name of undertakers. The influence derived from their situation gave them an unlimited controul over the interior government of Ireland, and enabled them to dictate their own terms to the English government. To destroy their exorbitant power it was resolved, at the change of ministry in 1766, that the lord lieutenant should reside constantly in Ireland.

In the year 1768 Lord Townsend was appointed to this office, and in the beginning of the next year Sir George Macartney was named his chief secretary.

The change of system now adopted excited strong impressions on the different parties in Ireland. The animosity of its former rulers, excited by the diminution of their power and patronage, was shown by the opposition to the money-bills, which through the influence of the Duke of Leinster, Lord Shannon, then master of the ordinance, and Mr. Ponsonby, the speaker, were rejected. Lord Townsend determined to crush this party by vigorous measures, and immediately prorogued the Parliament, and dismissed Lord Shannon and Mr. Ponsonby from their employments. These gentlemen, together with the Duke of Leinster, immediately went over to

* The clause originally ran thus:—"Mais alors on se reserve de la part de la Russie, en reciprocité de l'acte de navigation de la Grand Bretagne, la liberté de faire dans l'interieur, tel arrangement particulier qu'il sera trouvé bon pour encourager, et étendre la navigation Rus-sienne."—"Reserving, however, on the part of Russia, in return for the Navigation Act of Great Britain, the liberty of making such particular internal arrangements as may be found useful for encouraging and extending the Russian navigation."

It was afterwards thus altered:—"Mais alors chaque haute partie contractante se reserve pour elle la liberté de faire dans l'interieur de ses états tel arrangement particulier qu'elle trouvera bon pour encourager et étendre sa propre navigation."—"But each of the high contracting parties reserves to itself the liberty of making such private arrangements in the interior of its states, as may be thought useful to encourage and extend its own navigation."

that party which distinguished themselves by an unvaried opposition to the measures of Government, and were then styled the Patriots. To crush this party required no small degree of resolution and perseverance. The opposition was pertinacious and incessant; every measure proposed by government was certain of being objected to; and resolutions were brought forward more with a view to embarrass the ministry than for the public advantage. In the prosecution of his purpose the lord lieutenant found himself ably seconded by his secretary. Sir George was an active, steady, and successful advocate of the cause of the ministry in the house of commons. By degrees the undertakers lost their influence, and in the same proportion that of the ministry encreased. For three years Sir George remained employed with unremitting attention in the duties of his office; residing mostly in Dublin, and spending in his own country the salary annexed to his office, and his own paternal income. During this time he secured no lucrative situations for himself or his friends, having, on the contrary, waived his claim to a place of £2000 per annum, to accommodate the government. He did not, however, remain unrewarded. On his return to England he was made a knight of the Bath, and some time afterwards received the appointment of governor and constable of the castle of Toome, in Ireland, with a salary of £1,300.

Soon after his resignation of the secretaryship of Ireland, he received another public appointment, which if less difficult, was in the end attended with greater danger. At the close of the year 1775, he was nominated governor of the islands of Grenada, the Grenadines and Tobago, and the next year he was raised to the peerage of Ireland, by the title of Lord Macartney, baron of Lissanoure. On his arrival at the seat of his government he found the island distracted by the feuds of two contending factions, the French and the Scotch party, each inveterate against the other. The former consisted of the original inhabitants, the latter of new settlers; their animosities were heightened by religious differences. The French party looked upon the Scotch not only as intruders but as

heretics; the Scotch hated the French because they were Papists. To such a height of mutual irritation had they proceeded, that a plan was formed for the demolition of all the French churches in the island, and it required all the exertions of Lord Macartney to prevent the occurrence of an act so disgraceful. He had at length the satisfaction to find that the measures he adopted for tranquillizing the island were successful. His measures gave general satisfaction, the colony flourished, and the prosperity of individuals kept pace with the public welfare.

To the office of governor was united that of chancellor or supreme judge. In performing the duties of this department his patient attention in investigating the causes brought before him, and the equity of his decisions were applauded by all. He also succeeded in establishing a respectable militia; arms were entrusted indiscriminately into the hands of those who had so lately been on the point of mutual destruction, and the state of order and discipline to which he brought this newly formed military body assisted very much in the defence maintained against a very superior French force in the year 1779.

Of this intended attack Lord Macartney had received accurate information some time before. He also knew the importance which the French attached to these islands, and foresaw the benefits about to result to the English, if they were able to maintain the possession; he therefore neglected no precaution to ensure their safety; he raised batteries at the landing places; he was indefatigable in disciplining his little force, which consisted of less than five hundred men, not a fifth part of which were regulars; and sent early notice of the enemy's intention to the commanders of the English squadrons in these parts, endeavouring to impress on them the value of these islands to Great Britain, and the necessity of reinforcements. Having at length received intelligence that the French fleet was preparing to sail for Grenada, he sent again for assistance to General Grant, commanding at St. Lucia, and to Admiral Byron, who commanded the fleet. By the former he was told that he could

not divide his force, or send him a single man; the latter said that he knew St. Vincent's to be the enemy's destination; but that if Grenada should be actually attacked, he would certainly come to his assistance. Thus left to his own resources Lord Macartney did not despond; determined to delay, if not to disappoint the enemy's designs, he resolved, though he could not hope for success, not to yield without honour.

In the beginning of July, Count D'Estaing appeared before the island, with twenty-five ships of the line and twelve frigates, having on board nearly seven thousand land troops, and immediately affected a landing. As soon as his whole force was disembarked, the French commander sent a summons to Lord Macartney, who had retired with his small force to a commanding height over the town, for an unconditional surrender, accompanied with menaces in case of refusal, to which the following laconic but spirited reply was given. "Lord Macartney is ignorant of the Count D'Estaing's force; he knows his own, and will defend the island to the utmost of his power." So small, however, was his power of defence, so totally unprovided of means from within, or hopes from without, that all he could expect was a capitulation on honourable terms. As the enemy advanced he was forced to retire step by step, and at last to throw himself as a last resource, into a small fort. Here the garrison finding resistance hopeless, sent a flag with articles of surrender; these were rejected and others transmitted in their stead, so degrading and uncertain, that not only the governor but all the principal inhabitants who were consulted on the occasion, resolved to surrender at discretion rather than accept of them. In consequence of this resolution, and to avoid the horrors and slaughter of an assault, he was compelled to the hard condition of delivering the island to the enemy unconditionally; but when he found that his being made a prisoner of war was inevitable, he tore the star of the Order of the Bath from his breast, observing "that though he could not prevent his person from falling into the hands of the enemy, he would take care that the ensigns

of his Sovereign's favour should not grace a Frenchman's victory." The place was given up to the soldiers. All the clothes, plate, furniture and papers, both public and private, belonging to Lord Macartney, were taken from him, and no part of them ever returned. The plate was sold by public auction, in the market-place of Grenada, for the benefit of the French soldiers. Lord Macartney himself was refused permission to return to England on his parole, and sent a close prisoner to France. The bad treatment he received from the French commander, had no effect on his temper. When Count D'Estaing, the day after the capitulation, sent him an invitation to dinner, instead of betraying any resentment or ill-humour, he returned answer, "that he willingly accepted his invitation, but hoped he would over look the style of his dress, as the French soldiers had made a little free with his ward-robe." They had not left him a second shirt.

The injury suffered in his private fortune, for which it is to be remarked he never obtained any compensation, was much augmented by the irreparable loss of his papers.—From his first entrance into life, he had been in the habit of committing to paper every thing that occurred worthy of observation: the active life in which he had been engaged rendered these documents highly valuable. All these were lost; and to augment the misfortune, duplicates of those of most importance, which he had the precaution to send to England in the supply store-ship, also perished by that ship taking fire on its passage. His losses at this time, obliged him to dispose of the governorship of Toome for the payment of his creditors.

These losses were in some measure compensated by the expression of public feeling as to his defence of Grenada. By an act of Parliament, an extraordinary indulgence was granted to the island of Grenada, of allowing an importation of its produce to Great Britain, notwithstanding its being in the possession of an hostile power; and the ground of this act, as declared in both houses of parliament, was the gallant resistance made

by Lord Macartney at the head of his little force, mostly formed of the inhabitants of the island.

His Lordship remained a short time prisoner of war at Limoges. He was at length permitted to return to England, and immediately exchanged.—Soon after the affairs of Ireland under the administration of Lord Buckinghamshire, were likely to occasion much embarrassment, Lord Macartney was prevailed upon to undertake a secret confidential mission to that

country which he accomplished equally to the satisfaction of all parties. The advice and assistance he had in his power then to give the lord lieutenant, on several very important and delicate questions, were of infinite service, and were gratefully received and acknowledged by that nobleman. On his return to England he again accepted a seat in the British Parliament, and was returned for the borough of Beralstone, in Devonshire, in 1780.

To be Continued.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

Description of a Potatoe Frame, for riddling Potatoes, on bringing them into the house after digging. From the Transactions of the Highland Society of Scotland, Vol. III.

A POTATOE frame, something on the construction of a harp, for sand, having half-inch thick splices of wood, at inch and quarter clear distance between them, clears the potatoes of earth and small ones, when going to be housed. It is placed sloping under the end of the cart, and the potatoes are drawn gradually into the sloping frame; the large ones run along into the house, and the small ones and earth fall through the splices. The proper

dimensions of the frame corresponding to the wideness of the cart, are from five to six feet long, and two and a half wide. The small potatoes and earth are cleared to a side, now and then, and the earth riddled out of them, when they are put up for swine. The large potatoes are then much cleaner and the better of this operation.

To make Shoes water proof.

Melt 4 parts of rosin, with 6 parts of bees wax, 8 parts of mutton suet, and 16 parts of linseed oil.

This mixture warmed and frequently applied to the upper leather and soles of the shoes, will keep the feet dry in all the dirt of a wet season.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

DR. PALEY.

IN the year 1795, during one of his visits to Cambridge, Dr. Paley, in the course of a conversation on the subject, gave the following account of the early part of his own academical life; and it is here given on the authority, and in the very words of a gentleman who was present at the time, as a striking instance of the peculiar frankness with which he was in the habit of relating the adventures of his youth.

"I spent the first two years of my undergraduateship happily but unprofitably. I was constantly in society, where we were not immoral, but idle and rather expensive. At the com-

mencement of my third year, however, after having left the usual party at rather a late hour in the evening, I was awakened at five in the morning by one of my companions, who stood at my bed-side and said; "Paley I have been thinking what a d***d fool you are. I could do nothing, probably, were I to try, and can afford the life I lead: you could do every thing and cannot afford it. I have had no sleep during the whole night on account of these reflections, and am now come solemnly to inform you, that if you persist in your indolence, I must renounce your society."

"I was so struck"—Dr. Paley con-

tinued, "with the visit and visitor, that I lay in bed great part of the day and formed my plan. I ordered my bed-maker to prepare my fire every evening, in order that it might be lighted by myself. I rose at five, read during the whole of the day, except such hours as chapel and hall required, allotting to each portion of time its peculiar branch of study; and just before closing the gates (nine o'clock) I went to a neighbouring coffee-house, where I constantly regaled upon a mutton chop and a dose of milk punch. And thus on taking my bachelor's degree, I became senior wrangler."

Thus fortunately was Dr. Paley roused to a full exertion of his faculties, before his habits were completely formed; and to this singular adventure may, perhaps, be attributed, not only his successful labours, as a college tutor, but the invaluable productions of his pen.

NEW MODE OF KILLING.

The following extract of a list of killed and wounded in the battle before Corunna, appeared in a London print. Captain Burrard, killed, Guards; Lieut. Col. Wynch, severely. Had it been a skirmish at an Irish fair or a battle between the rival parties of Shanavests and Caravats, we would have been able to understand what is meant by *severely killed*; but as it appears in a publication of the refined metropolis of Great Britain, we must wait until some of the writers on surgery, gives a definition of this new species of the extinction of animal life.

NEGRO CLEANLINESS.

A mark of cleanliness not much to be expected among a class of men so degraded, is strongly expressed among the Negroes in the West Indies, that of paying great attention to their teeth. The chew-stick which is here employed for cleaning the teeth is far more in use among the negroes, than the tooth-brush among the lower classes of people in England. A Negro has been observed amidst his many gambols in the water, to dive frequently to the bottom of the sea, and bring up a handful of sand. With this rough dentifrice, he soundly scrubbed his teeth, and by way of

essence to wash it off, plunged down for another handful with his mouth wide open; and thus alternately repeated the rubbing and sea-water washing, until he found that his pearls were duly contrasted with his ebony countenance.

GIOTTE, THE PAINTER.

Pope Innocent the VIII. having desired to see a specimen of the talents of Giotte, one of the first of the modern Italian painters, this artist in imitation of the celebrated Apelles, sent him an outline in form of a circle, drawn with such freedom as to show the hand of a master and at the same time with such truth, as to give rise to a proverb, *tu scilicet ton do qui lo di Giotte*.

INVENTION OF ENGRAVING.

The origin of the art of engraving is attributed to Tomaso Finiguerra, a Florentine goldsmith, who being accustomed to engrave on different metals, for the purpose of inlaying them, occasionally tried the effects of his work, by taking off impressions, first on sulphur, and afterwards on paper, by means of a roller, in such a manner that the figures seemed to have been traced with a pen. He however never applied this invention to any other purpose than that of ascertaining the progress of his work; but Baccio Baldini another goldsmith, conceiving that this discovery might be applied to more important purposes, began to engrave on metals, solely with a view of transferring the impressions to paper.

PARIAH ARRACK LIQUOR.

From the juice which exudes from the cocoa-nut trees is produced a liquor which by boiling forms a coarse kind of sugar, by distillation it yields a strong ardent spirit, which being every where sold at a low price constitutes one of the most destructive annoyances to the British soldiers. The name given to this pernicious drink by Europeans, is Pariah Arrack, from the supposition that it is only drunk by the Pariahs or outcasts, that have no rank; no Hindoo of any of the four casts, is allowed by his religion to taste any intoxicating liquor; and in general this restriction is only violated by strangers, dancers, players and outcasts.

ABERDALGIE REFORMERS.

At Aberdalgie, a small parish in Scotland, some loyal and constitutional resolutions were proposed to be signed by the inhabitants, during a season of general and well-founded alarm, produced by seditious movements. They firmly refused their subscriptions and assent, although these resolutions were strongly recommended from the pulpit, and by a noble Lord of considerable property and influence. The general answer given by the parishioners, was as follows:

"We sincerely wish well to the

King and Constitution, but while there exists such urgent necessity for reform, which may easily be put in practice without danger to either, we cannot think of signing any paper in which redress of grievances, and diminution of public expense, sinecures, and pensions, are not the prevailing sentiments; nor will we on any account tie up our hands from endeavouring to procure by all lawful and tranquil methods, such desirable purposes."

With this declaration they left the church totally to the thunderstruck clergyman and the peer.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

EPISTLE

TO A YOUNG MAN GOING TO COLLEGE, TO
STUDY PHYSIC.

BY this, I hope, my youthful friend,
Thou hast attained thy journey's end,
And met a welcome kind,

Thou wilt not this address refuse,
From a mean votary of the Muse,
To serve thee well inclined.

Perhaps you will offendest be,
And think and say I am too free,

If I should dare advise;
But I will not believe it so,
My friendship true I trust you know,
Your happiness I prize.

My friend, unto the world you're new,
You must expect to find but few

On whom you can depend;
Fraud and deceit do much abound,
The spiteful foe is often found,
And the deceitful friend.

An open foe you need not fear,
But those who friendship's semblance wear
Are to be dreaded most;

Superior kindness their pretence
They'll steal into your confidence,
Then of their triumph boast.

Let prudent caution be your guide,
Nor trust until you well have tried,

Lest you should be deceived;
But when you find a friend sincere,
Preserve him with the utmost care,
A gift from Heaven received.

I would not have you to suppose,
From this I'd wish your heart to close,

Or torturing doubts instill;
Let reason guide the genuine flow,
And let not dark suspicion grow,

Thy generous trust to chill.

From lawless love guard well your heart,
Be not the dupe of female art,

Nor this advice disdain;
Unlawful pleasures always cloy,
For one short hour of fleeting joy,
You'll prove an age of pain.

Those talents which to you are given,
Consider as the gift of Heaven,

And in Heaven's cause employ;
Religion's champion always be,
And let no vain philosophy,
Your Heavenly hopes destroy.

Superior genius you possess,
This sure will make your labour less,
To learn the healing art;

Do not the humbler path despise,
Nor let your flights of fancy rise,
Your studies to divert.

When the profession you've attained,
You will have time to let unreined,
The Muse extend her flight;
Drawn from the source of ancient lore,
Your mind will have imbibed a store,
Of intellectual light.

In the profession which you've chose,
Have many shining lights arose,

In science's bright sky;
Goldsmith and Garth, and Akenside,
Smollet, and many more beside,
By fame exalted high.

When on the world you look around,
You'll wonder at the strange compound,
Of folly, sin and art;

Attracted some by glory's blaze
While others, sordid interest sways,
And closes up the heart.

Some eager run ambition's race,
With terror we their footsteps trace,

With blood and rapine marked;
While some immersed in slothful ease,
Study each appetite to please,
In Pleasure's cause embarked.

Others well skilled in fraud and guile,
Do study every artful wile.

On mankind to impose;
The mask of honesty they wear,
No friendly hand to lay them bare,
Or the bad heart expose.

Some madly run the wild career,
And strangers to each cautious fear,
Are first in Folly's race;
Each fleeting fashion they pursue,
How strange soever if 'tis new,
They're eager in the chase.

Horse, or dog, or dice attracts,
The silly mortal ne'er reflects,
Till ruin him assails;
Then he has leisure for sad thought,
And then experience dearly bought
Severe distress entails.

While others—but, alas! how few,
To true Religion's dictates true,
Pursue a virtuous way;
Steady in view they keep the end,
They for a glorious prize contend,
A crown will ne'er decay.

Still, my young friend, be this your aim,
Superior e'en to love of fame,
Or sordid thirst of gain;
This will sustain you in distress,
Will every want and woe redress,
Even blot the dart of pain. *LYDIA.*

A SONNET.

WHILE pensive on the lonely plain,
Far from the sight of her I love;
To the clear stream I tell my pain,
And sigh my passion to the grove.

Echo, sweet goddess of the wood,
From all thy calls, resound my care:
Thou Stream, along thy silver flood,
Convey my murmurs to the fair.

Tell her, oh! tell the charming maid,
In vain the feather'd warblers stung;
In vain the trees extend their shade,
Or blooming Flora paints the spring.

For absent from her dearer arms,
Not all those beauties can invite;
But did she bless her William's arms
E'en barren deserts would delight.

Dungannon.

WILLIAM.

SONNET TO COL. WARDIE.

IF bounteous Rome, philanthropy to
wake,
Decreed that citizen a civic wreath,
Who should spontaneously existence stake,
And snatch one freeman from impending
death.

What nobler trophy can reward his worth
Who, serving millions, in an injur'd state,
Drags vile Corruption, cringing, to the
earth,

And brands the satellites her bribes create!

Such meed thou claims't, Oh WARDIE!
justly fam'd,

When Luxury the arm of Pow'r unserr'd,
And Peculation scandalously sham'd
The public trust, and pride poor men
starv'd!

Thou dar'd denounce them.—Such con-
summate worth,

The People shall applaud, while truth has
friend on earth.

Ballycarry.

0.

WRITTEN IN A GROVE, NEAR BELFAST.

Remembrance wakes with all her busy train,
Swells in my breast, and turns the past to pain.

GOLDMITS.

SWEET Spring is returning, drest out in
gay green,

Her wild, simple beauties unveil'd to the
day;

New graces play round her, and all the
bright scene

Invites us from dull smoky cities to stray:
Ah! oft I will stray to this favourite grove.

Where fond recollection endears every
tree—

Where ever through life I am destin'd to
rove,

Still, still those lov'd haunts will be dear
unto me.

Along by this river, beneath these lov'd
trees,

With ——— how often delighted I've
been;

The birds too, as now, join'd their notes
in the breeze,

And beauty and harmony dwelt in the
scene;

And still these delights in the scene may
appear

To a mind from distress and inquietude
free;

But though those sweet shades to my torn
heart are dear,

Yet beauty nor harmony lives not to me.

Thou flow'st silent stream! and for ages
may flow,

An emblem, methinks, of eternity's tide;
Thou holdest thy course still majestic

and slow,
Nor regardest frail man, as he sinks by
thy side;

Yet in him whom I mourn, was each virtue
combin'd,

Nor ever again on thy margin, then't see

form where more honour and truth were
enshrin'd
Than in his who has render'd thy waves
dear to me!

And these are the paths, arm in arm
where we've stray'd,
As fondly I hoped we should journey
through life;
And here is the spot where with rapture
he said
He still bless'd the day which had made
me his wife!
O! green be the earth on this seat all the
year;
Still sacred to friendship and love may
it be;
Though oft its soft grass is bedew'd with
a tear,
No spot on the earth is so dear unto me.
Enough, my full heart, from this scene
let me go;
Behold where the sun-beams dance bright
through the leaves,
Perhaps his warm influence a balm may
bestow—
Alas! no, *this* prospect more painfully
grieves;
For there stands the cot where each bless-
ing I knew,
Its walls through the green waving foliage
I see;
Nor could Fancy picture a more rural
view—
Oh view! how belov'd, and how mournful
to me.

O cot, where I've tasted of joy and of
woe!
As great as e'er falls to humanity's part!
My love in your walls did true happiness
know,
And there burst the sighs that at last rent
his heart.
Oh! thought full of anguish, for ever in
view,
With pain, thou lov'd dwelling, each
beauty I see,
But while this sad heart to its feelings
beats true,
Thou canst not be view'd with indifference
by me.

The sun now declines to his western
retreat,
The grave tints of evening steal over the
lawn;
O spirit, with whom this fond heart is
replete!
Dost thou e'er visit here, at the evening
or dawn?
Oh, heart-soothing thought! thou may'st
now round me hover,
And all my fond wishes be known unto
thee—

BELFAST MAG. NO. IX.

For sure, if permitted, my life thou'lt
watch over!
O spirit benign! shed thy influence o'er
me.

Wrapt in thought, as I stray, dark
shades veil the sky,
How awful these gusts of the wind through
the trees!
Methinks now each branch for my loss
seems to sigh—
More soothing these blasts than the se-
phyr's soft breeze.
Ah! scenes dear to memory! thou steal'st
from my eyes,
Soon dark as the grave ev'ry prospect
shall be,
But morning, more glorious, to thee shall
arise:
Ah, can morn e'er outlive the wretched
like me!

April, 1805.

DELIA.

ON SPRING.

THE blackbird whistles joyful notes,
And from a thousand little throats,
What sweet, what varied music flows
On every gentle gale that blows!
Oh! this is rapture! this is Spring,
When all is young, and all is fair,
Who would not try with these to sing,
And cast away all grovelling care!
The dewy earth, gemm'd o'er with flowers,
The warbling birds, the thick'ning bowers,
The balmy air, the lengthening days
All serve delightful hopes to raise:
For now is hope, and now is joy,
No fear of winter shall annoy,
The present bliss, for every day,
We know, new beauties will display.
The branches now, just tipped with green,
All dress'd in leaves will soon be seen,
Now scatter'd birds most sweetly sing;—
Soon with full harmony shall ring,
The shady groves, and larks on high,
Will, as they chaunt, approach the sky.
'Tis thus in childhood's charming days,
The mother views the engaging ways,
Which, one by one, bud forth and blossom,
She clasps her darling to her bosom,
And present bliss, and hoped for joy,
Mix sweetly as she eyes her boy.

ELIZA.

LINES

To the Memory of the late John Q. Neil, esq.
of Banvale.

No longer Banvale, mourn as fair a name,
As e'er to virtue laid an honest claim;
But thank thy God, that he so long did spare
A life so useful, and a friend so dear;
Where dignity and sweetness well combin'd,
To form and harmonize a perfect mind.
U o

So equal portion'd did these virtues blend,
 You saw a master, or you found a friend.
 If Virtue's child he would thy sorrows heal;
 But pride and folly shrunk before O'Neill:
 For Nature, to best him for each part,
 Gave angel goodness, and a hero's heart;
 The one to aid, the other to reprove,
 Both to o'erawe, or gain esteem and love.
 He claim'd no title from his ancient blood,
 But rear'd this great one! "He was wise and good;"
 For well he knew that folly would efface
 The well gain'd honours of an ancient race;
 So from his father's disdain'd to shine,
 And added lustre to a princely line.
 An humble lot could not his merits hide,
 They all bespoke how high he was allied,
 With Virtue's aid, birth oft itself reveals,
 As Douglas' blood, so flow'd this true O'Neill's.
 So purely too, that all the world might scan,
 Tyrone's* descendant in an humble man:
 Who liv'd retir'd where his great fathers reign'd
 (And thank'd his God that he had so ordain'd)
 Shed their pure blood against their country's foes,
 Ere upstart lords in tinsel state arose.

Thy hills, O Ulster, and thy fertile plains,
 Thy warlike chiefs, and thy undaunted swains,
 Once own'd the sway his mighty fathers held
 By fame in arms, and country's love impell'd,
 Drove from our shores the fierce invading Dane,
 And laid in dust the shameful foreign chain.
 In ruder days thus shone his sires in arms,
 But Peace for him spread forth her golden charms;
 And yonder vale where gentle Banna flows,
 He made the seat of friendship and repose.
 His gen'rous soul, and hospitable door
 Were always open to the guiltless poor;
 And here the friend of learning too, might find
 A cheerful welcome, and a kindred mind.
 Or did the gay one, in some lucky hour,
 To his fair cot retreat from storm or shower,
 He found a man by nature form'd to please,
 Of noble aspect, and a graceful ease;
 A gentle welcome and a cheerful smile,
 And all the courtier but his baneful wile;
 What more *he was* deserves a nobler lay;
 And what *he is* let hosts of angels say.

R. D.

*He was the lineal descendant of the O'Neills,
 earls of Tyrone.

ON A WATCH-RIBBON,

RECEIVED FROM MISSES J. A. AND J. S. OF
 CARRICKFERGUS.

OH, time! fell murderer of the human
 race,
 Whose scythe, unsparing, cuts without
 regret,
 Who takest from memory each dearest
 trace,
 And from the heart restrainst the vital
 beat:

This little gift reminds me of thy pow'r,
 As every moment I thy flight perceive;
 By it I mark the tedious, long'ring hour,
 When for my absent friends I vainly
 grieve.

But time may wield his threat'ning sword
 in vain,

He cannot drive the donors from my
 heart,

The two dear givers and the gift remain,
 And from remembrance never can de-
 part.

Still will I kiss the trifle for their sake,
 Assur'd that time our friendship cannot
 break.

His Majesty's ship L'Argus,
Cork, Nov. 15, 1808.

J. P.

THE PRIMROSE.

THE fairest harbinger of spring.
 Yon Primrose yields its mild perfume;
 And foster'd by the vernal shower,
 In nature's simple beauty bloom.

But should some cold and win'try blast
 Succeed the warmth of April skies,
 Behold this lovely child of Spring
 'Midst sedges dark neglected dies.

Ye fair, whose very smiles are love,
 The Moral of my lay attend;
 When cold Indifference shades your brows,
 Your beauties fade, your triumphs end:

And like yon fair, but hapless flower,
 Doom'd to forgetfulness a prey,
 'Midst dreary woods, and lonely fields,
 Life's tedious moments roll away.

While youth and beauty lend their charms
 These happy gifts with care improve;
 Though beauty first attracts our eyes,
 Your smiles alone secure our love.

Dungannon.

WILLIAM.

TO MISS MARGARET A.***

OF CARRICKFERGUS, ON PERCEIVING HER
 LOOK THOUGHTFUL.

SAY, Peggy, why sits meditation,
 On that cheerful beauteous brow?
 Care might choose some other station,
 Sweeter studies claim thee now.

With thee I ne'er could use deceit,
 Nor flatter, even though inclin'd,
 Thy outward beauties though so great,
 Are far exceeded by thy mind.

Dare melancholy then, her seat
 E'er fix in that attractive face?
 Where Cupid makes his sly retreat,
 And points his bow to every place.

Too oft the urchin's power I feel,
 Whene'er I cast my eyes on thee,
 And still cannot my hopes reveal,
 But frequent struggle to be free.

The useless efforts now are o'er,
The language of my eyes can tell,
Against thy power I'll fight no more,
But sigh, and feel—I love too well.
His Majesty's ship D'Argus, J. P.
Cork, Nov. 18, 1808.

SELECT POETRY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ARABIC, BY THE
LATE DOCTOR CARLYLE.

THOSE dear abodes which once contained the fair,
Amidst Mitata's wilds I seek in vain,
Nor towers, nor tents, nor cottages are there,
But scattered ruins and a silent plain.

The proud canals, that once Rayana graced,
Their course neglected and their waters gone,
Among the levelled sands are dimly traced,
Like moss-grown letters on a mouldering stone.

Rayana, say, how many a tedious year,
Its hallowed circle o'er our heads hath roll'd,
Since to my vows thy tender maids gave ear,
And fondly listened to the tale I told?

How oft, since there, the star of Spring that pours
A never-failing stream, hath drenched thy head?

How oft, the Summer's cloud in copious showers,
Or gentle drops its genial influence shed?

How oft, since there, the hovering mist of morn,
Hath caused thy locks with glittering gems to glow,

How oft hath ever dewy treasures borne,
To fall responsive to the breeze below?

The matted thistles, bending to the gale,
Now clothe those meadows once with verdure gay;

Amidst the windings of that lonely vale,
The teeming antelope and osfrich stray:

The large-eyed mother of the herd, that flies
Man's noisy haunts, here finds a sure retreat,
Here tends her clustering young, till age supplies,
Strength to their limbs and swiftness to their feet.

Save where the swelling stream hath swept those walls,
And given their deep foundations to the light,
As the retouching pencil that recalls,
A long lost picture to the raptured sight.)

Save where the rains have washed the gathered sands,
And bared the scanty fragments to our view,
(As the dust* sprinkled on a punctured hand,
Bids the faint tints resume their azure hue.)

No mossy record of those once loved seats,
Points out the mansion to inquiring eyes,
No tottering wall, in echoing sounds repeats,
Our mournful questions, and our bursting sighs!

Yet midst those ruin'd heaps—that naked plain,
Can faithful Memory former scenes restore,
Recall the busy throng, the jocund train,
And picture all that charmed us there before.

Ne'er shall my heart the fatal morn forget,
That bore the fair ones from these seats so dear,
I see, I see, the crowding litters yet,
And yet the tent-poles rattle in my ear.

I see the maids with timid steps ascend,
The streamers wave in all their painted pride,
The floating curtains every fold extend,
And vainly strive the charms within to hide.

What graceful forms those envious folds enclose!
What melting glances through those curtains play!
Sure Weira's antelopes, or Tudah's roes,
Through yonder veils their sportive young survey.

The hand moved on—to trace their steps I strove,
I saw them urge the camels' hastening flight,
Till the white vapour, like a rising grove,
Snatched them for ever from my aching sight.

Nor since that morn have I Nawara seen
The bands are burst, which held us once so fast,
Memory but tells me that such things have been,
And sad Reflection adds, that they are past.

* It is a custom with the Arabian women, in order to give the veins of their hands and arms a more brilliant appearance, to make slight punctures along them, and to rub into the incisions a blue powder, which they renew occasionally as it happens to wear out.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Fasciculus the 2d of the Belfast Literary Society, on the Linen and Hempen Manufacture, by Doctor Stephenson. Belfast, Smyth and Lyons, 1808.

Concluded from vol. 1. p. 377.

IT was our intention to have resumed our notice of this most valuable article in our last Number, but we postponed it, from a wish to pay it the particular attention, that so very important a subject demands. Our general remarks shall still be reserved for another occasion; in the mean time we lay before our readers that portion of the treatise, which will most interest them at the present moment, the observations of Doctor Stephenson on the quality and culture of flax:

“Most of our flax-seed is imported from Riga, the Low Countries, and America. The farmers who are accustomed to sow Riga, especially if they intend to preserve the seed, prefer it, because it produces the greatest quantity. Although the casks in which it is exported are new, they are often badly finished, and the seed sometimes damaged, and often too long kept. Memel seed has been imported into this Province; it produces short flax and is now generally despised.

“The Dutch is a large, dark coloured seed, some grains of it are nearly black, and flat, and shrivelled, like unripe seed hastily dried, yet it sells as high as Riga seed, and higher than American. It cannot be safely kept through the winter, so as to be sown the following spring. The old, close, damp wine hogsheads in which it is exported, were supposed to be the cause of this evil. The American casks are made of new, dry, well-seasoned oak, and readily admit air. Our merchants believing this theory well founded, changed it from Dutch into American casks, and stored it on well-aired, dry lofts, without any good effect. Probably the damp air of the Low Countries, and unripe seed are the causes.

“The American seed is smaller and rounder than the Dutch, the

colour lighter, the skin smoother. The preference of the Dutch seed is contrary to our experience of the advantage of changing the seed of grain to a kind of soil different from that in which it was produced. The soil of America differs more from the soil of Ireland than the soil of the Low Countries, yet the Dutch seed is preferred to the American, from a supposition that it produces larger and longer stalks, and a greater quantity of flax.

“The annual importation of flax-seed from each country into the ports of this kingdom is published in the yearly Transactions of the Linen Board.

“The annual average sale of flax-seed in Belfast, 5,000 hogsheads; in Newry, 9,000; in Londonderry, 11,000, amounting to 25,000 hogsheads. The importations annually exceed the sales by several thousand hogsheads.

“Riga and Dutch seeds are sold at the same rate by the wholesale merchants; New-york, Philadelphia and Boston, at the same rate; New-york and Boston are preferred by farmers to Philadelphia.

In 1805 Dutch seed sold for..	£7	19	3
American,.....	6	16	6
In 1806, Dutch,.....	7	19	3
American,.....	4	11	0
In 1807, Dutch,.....	7	7	10
American,.....	4	5	0
In 1808, Dutch, old.....	10	4	9
American, new.....	9	2	0

To complete this table we here add the importations and prices this season, from the 1st January, till 26th April.

Dutch, 107 hogsheads, price when landed, 25 to 30 guineas, all sold.—Riga, 3064½ hogsheads, at 30 guineas when landed; 13 guineas, 26th April.—English, 617 hogsheads, at 20 guineas when landed; 11 to 13 guineas, 26th April.—Sicilian, 694.—Canada, 376½ hogsheads, at 12 guineas when landed; 8 guineas, 26th April.—Archangel, 289½ hogsheads, at 12 guineas when landed; 8 guineas 26th April.—total 5148½ hogsheads, from the 1st January till the 26th April, 1809. Some American vessels are daily expected.

Seed found on hand in Belfast, before the 1st of January last, 11 hogs-

bends Dutch; 108 American; 281 barrels Riga. The Sicilian is a very large seed, we learn that it is cultivated for the seed only for its oil, not for the fibrous texture of the flax.

"No new Dutch seed at market this season (1898) a supposed scarcity, and a demand from forestallers occasioned the American seed to be sold in March, 1898, at £11 7 6, some at £14 5 9; in May, the same year, it was sold for £7 7 10½. The great demands, the high prices, the danger and disappointments induced the Trustees to encourage the farmers of this country to save and sow their own seed. The greatest quantities were raised when premiums were distributed by the acre, and itinerant men sent to inspect the crops.

"Rippling, drawing the bolls from the stalk with an iron comb, was not neglected in the early stages of the linen manufacture, because they spoil the water in which the flax is steeped, and are very troublesome in the grassing and breaking; in this operation the fibrous texture is sometimes injured by the comb; this is prevented by laying the flax in handfuls across each other, or binding it up in small sheaves, and letting it continue a few days in the form of stooks; the cortical part will then be firm, and remain uninjured by the comb.

"In warm and early countries, the rippled bolls may be dried and the seed preserved for sowing; but, the weather of our autumns is so uncertain that we seldom succeed in this practice; when we attempt to dry them on a floor, the heat they acquire destroys the principle of vegetation; the seed is then only fit for the oil mill.

"The farmers most successful in saving seed, pull the flax when fully ripe; if the weather is dry they lay it in handfuls a few days on the ground, six handfuls across each other, in each place; then bind it up in sheaves, stook it till dry, build it on hovels or stands, and thresh it off in the April following. If the flax is early ripe, it is threshed without stacking, and immediately watered, grassed and dressed. The seed is easily separated from the husks by passing it through

a common grist mill; care should be taken to keep the stones at such a distance as to break the bolls without injuring the seed.

"The late Sir John Blackwood, of Ballyleedy published a Treatise upon Winter Flax; he sowed the seed in autumn with success, and was imitated by many farmers, but with uncertain profit, because severe frosts heaved the tender plants out of the ground and destroyed them. A light roller drawn over it, might have restored it to the soil, and prevented the loss. If this method would succeed, the crop would be early, and the seed easily saved.

"When flax is nearly ripe, a disease called firing, often attacks it. It appears on the bark like mildew upon the stalks of wheat, and like parasitical plants, injures the stem which supports it. This fungus does not so much injure the seed as the fibres of the flax. It adheres so closely to the rind, as to elude the operations of watering, scutching, hackling, spinning, boiling, weaving, and often of the old method of bleaching; when it appears in the form of black specks on half-bleached Linen, it is called *sprit*. When this disease attacks the standing flax, immediate pulling is the only remedy yet discovered; most of it may be removed by scraping and brushing at the time of hackling, or before hackling, by an antient instrument, too little in use, the *cloue*; it resembles curling tongs upon a large scale; the cylindrical side, the tongue, is of wood, the concave side of iron, the sharp edges of which scrape the flax drawn between it and the tongue. The new method of bleaching removes every appearance of *sprit*.

"When flax stands till the seed is ripe, the fibres are coarse and not easily divided by the dresser. It does not sell for so much by the stone as finer flax, but the quantity is greater, and the produce of an acre sells for more than if it were fine. The farmers in this province, who have practised the culture of ground for Flax, can testify, that this kind of husbandry is as profitable as any other, even suppose the seed badly saved, and fit only for the oil mill.

"The flax leaves the land in a

good state for wheat; clover-seed is sown with great advantage with the flax-seed, because the flax is early off the ground, and the land is made looser and the clover moulded by pulling the flax. If the clover is luxuriant, the ground will be left in excellent condition for wheat or flax, if sowed with one furrow on the clover lay.

"Potatoes, flax, clover, or wheat, is a very proper course of crops upon clay ground; oats in place of wheat on light land.

"Flax-seed bright in colour, heavy, free from seeds of weeds, and which when bruised, appears fresh, tastes sweet, and not fusty, should be chosen.

"This useful plant thrives in different soils and climates, with various modes of cultivation; it delights most in a deep open loam, kept some years in pasture; when plowed only once, it will be free of weeds, and produce the strongest and best flax. Land which is very free and open, may be sown after potatoes with harrowing only; if it is inclined to clay, it should be plowed and well harrowed before sowing; ground that has produced a good crop after potatoes, will produce good flax, if only once plowed and harrowed. The inhabitants of the Braid get good crops of flax from poor land, without manure, if plowed and harrowed three or four times. Flax should not be sown on rank stiff clay, nor on dry gravel, nor in small fields surrounded with trees or high hedges; these, by keeping it wet, cause it to lodge, and the drops from the trees prevent it arriving at maturity.

"Writers on the cultivation of this plant direct, that all flax-ground should be laid flat, because if it is in ridge and furrow, it will produce stalks unequal in length; this plan is very proper where the ground is deep and dry. If thin wet ground be laid flat, it will produce little in a rainy season; the cultivators of such must yield to necessity, and sow their seed upon the land laid up in ridges; the flax on the ridge must be first pulled, and that in the furrow sometime after. The long and short stalks should be kept separate, else the short may be lost in dressing.

"The quantity of seed sown upon an acre differs with the soil, and the views of the farmer. If seed is sown thick upon a very rich soil, the flax will lodge in wet weather. If a great quantity of flax, or of seed is desired, it is sown thin. American seed being less than the Dutch, requires more ground. Three Winchester bushels are generally sown upon an acre Irish measure.

"Our time of sowing is usually in April. If the land is free, or brought to a fine mould, rolling causes the ground to support the tender stalk better, and prevents lodging. The best flax in the county of Antrim has been produced by sowing and leaving the seed above ground, without harrowing or rolling. The reason given is, that our seed being mostly sown too thick, the weak seed left uncovered perishes, but the strong seed strikes root, thrives, and produces a regular good crop, without under-growth, by this mode of cultivation. Rolling without harrowing is safest and best for flax and clover seed.

"Weeds are the greatest enemies to flax; their vegetation is most easily prevented by spring-fallowing; if any of their roots should escape the action of the plough and the harrow, and of the sun and the air, they should at this time be removed. The seedling weeds should be carefully pulled, and old weeds with large roots cut when the flax is three or four inches high. If this work is long delayed, and the flax much laid by tramping, it may not rise, or it may grow crooked.

"When the flower has fallen, and the farmer examines the crop, he will find, that some parts of the ground have produced long coarse flax, and short coarse flax with many branches, and full of bolls; these varieties he saves for seed. He will likewise find some long and slender, some short and slender, with few branches and bolls; these he will pull when the stalks turn yellow, before the leaves fall, or the bolls turn hard, and will carefully keep each sort separate. If any of it has been lodged by rain or other causes, he can save it by immediate pulling only.

The coarse, which is intended for seed, must stand till the bolls are sharp pointed, the stalks fully ripe, and managed as before-mentioned."

We hope to give in our next Number some extracts from Doctor Stephenson's Observations on Bleeding, and to accompany them with a few remarks, the result of experience. R.

The Speech of Henry Brougham, esq. before the House of Commons, Friday, April 1, 1808, in support of the Petitions from London, Liverpool, and Manchester, against the Orders in Council. Taken in Short-hand by Mr. A. Frazer. London, printed by J. McCreery, for J. Ridgway, Piccadilly, 1808. p.p. 84.

THE subject of the restrictions on trade, occasioned by the Orders in Council affecting us in this corner of the empire, as well as in other places, in our vital commercial interests, we had designed to bring this subject before our readers at an earlier period, but the copy of this work which had been received, was mislaid, and we were necessitated to wait to receive another copy. It is not yet however too late, for unhappily these impolitic restrictions still remain, and notwithstanding the delusive accounts published by ministers and their adherents, to deceive the public, and catch at a momentary popularity, it is very probable that no relaxation will take place in the American regulations, so as to afford us any substantial relief, until Great Britain relax in her arrogant claims, and rescind her orders in council.

Remote from the immediate scene of commercial politics, we are sometimes, as in the modes of dress, a year behind in the fashion. Last year the orders in council occupied the attention of the British merchants; the merchants of London, Liverpool, and Manchester, petitioned against them, and prayed to be heard by themselves or counsel at the bar of the house of commons; their request was granted, and they were permitted to adduce a mass of important evidence, and their counsel, on summing it up, made the speech which is the subject of review.

While this business was going forward, our merchants remained uninterested and aloof, and because they did

not immediately feel its effects, but in the mean time were rather aided by it in their avidity of speculation, they felt no concern in the affair—but speculation is often short-sighted, and it is probable they may yet feel the dire effects of this commercial warfare, of which the British orders form the most effective cause.

Already the people, if not the merchants, have been aroused from this state of apathy by the want of the usual supply of flaxseed, and our commercial interests are affected by the high prices of cotton-wool, and other American produce. Tobacco, that comfort, and from habit, that necessary article to the poor, has become exorbitantly high, and though statesmen and rich capitalists may disregard such sufferings, as beneath their notice, yet thus the sum of human misery is increased.

"And sorrow felt, in cottages confin'd,
"Sighs unregarded to the passing wind."

But if the criterion of a good government was justly estimated, as it ought to be, not by the emoluments to the rulers and their dependents, who participate of the plunder, but by the sum total of happiness to the people at large, different sentiments would prevail, and much relief would be experienced from the burthens of an overstrained taxation being removed, and from all injurious restrictions on trade and commerce being withdrawn, so as to give full scope to industry, and the consequent happiness of the community.

It is our design to give the history of the origin of these famous orders in council, and, in the first place, we present to our readers, the Petition from the Merchants, &c. of London, as giving a comprehensive view of the bad effects arising from the measure complained of:

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, The Petition of the undersigned Merchants, Manufacturers, and others of the City of London, interested in the Trade with the United States of America.

"HUMBLY SHOWETH,

"THAT your Petitioners contemplate with the greatest anxiety and appre-

hension the alarming consequences with which they are threatened from certain orders in council purporting to be issued "for the protection of the trade and navigation of Great Britain," but on which they are induced, after mature consideration, to believe, that they must be productive of the most ruinous effects. Your Petitioners are duly sensible of the necessity of making every sacrifice of personal interest to promote the strength and resources of the country in the present extraordinary crisis of public affairs, and if the total change introduced into the whole commercial system of this country and of the world by the orders in council, could be conducive to so desirable an object, your Petitioners, great as their losses must be, would submit without a murmur—but understanding that these orders are principally, if not wholly, recommended by an opinion that they will prove beneficial to the commercial interests of this country, they feel it to be their duty humbly to represent their conviction, that this opinion is founded in error, and that if the prayer of their petition be granted, they shall be able to prove that they must be productive of the most fatal consequences to the interests, not only of your Petitioners, but of the commerce and manufactures of the empire at large.

"Your Petitioners will abstain from enforcing by any details their apprehension, that these measures are likely to interrupt our peace with the United States of America, our intercourse with which, at all times valuable, is infinitely more so since we are excluded from the continent of Europe. To this only remaining branch of our foreign intercourse, we must now look for a demand for our manufactures, for many of the most important materials for their support, and for supplies of provisions and naval stores necessary for our subsistence and defence. Your Petitioners feel assured, that they will be able to prove to the satisfaction of your honourable house, that the neutrality of America has been the means of circulating, to a large amount, articles of the produce and manufactures of this country, in the dominions of our numerous enemies, to which we have no direct access.

"That the annual value of British

manufactures exported to the United States of America, exceeds ten millions sterling, and,

"That, as our consumption of the produce of that country falls far short of that amount, the only means of paying us must arise from the consumption of the produce of America, in other countries, which the operation of the orders in council must interrupt, and in most instances totally destroy.

"That the people of America, even if they remain at peace with us, must, by a want of demand for their produce, and by the general distress our measures must occasion, be disabled from paying their debts to this country, which may fairly be estimated to amount to the enormous sum of twelve millions sterling.

"That the neutrality of America, so far from being injurious to the other commercial interests of Great Britain, has promoted materially their prosperity.

"That the produce of our Colonies in the West Indies, of our empire in the East, and of our fisheries on the Banks of Newfoundland, has frequently found a foreign market by this means, and,

"That, by the destruction of the neutrality of the only remaining neutral state, all possibility of intercourse with the rest of the world being removed, trade cannot possibly be benefited, but must necessarily be annihilated.

"Your Petitioners feeling, as they do most sensibly with their fellow subjects, the pressure of a war in which their commerce has principally been aimed at by the enemy, would scorn to plead their distress in recommendation of measures inconsistent with the honour and substantial interests of their country; but they humbly rely upon the wisdom of the legislature, that this distress shall not be increased by our own errors, and they confidently believe, that if they are permitted to illustrate by evidence, the facts they here state, and to explain many others which they shall here refrain from enumerating, they cannot fail to establish the conviction with which they are so strongly impressed.

"That the orders in council are founded on the most mistaken opinions of the commercial interests of the empire, and must be particu-

lary fatal to those of your Petitioners.

"Your Petitioners therefore pray, that they may be heard by themselves or counsel, at the bar of this honourable house, and be permitted to produce evidence in support of the allegations of their Petition, or that this honourable house will examine into the nature and extent of their grievances, in any mode which may appear advisable, with a view of affording such relief as this honourable House in its wisdom may think proper.

"And your Petitioners will ever pray."

We now proceed, in the words of the speech, to lay before our readers a full detail of the rise of this measure. Speaking of his clients he says:

"The order of the 7th of January, 1807, was no light matter to them, either in its substantial effects or in the alarm which it created. Their apprehensions of its effects were great and serious indeed. But, confident that they could lose nothing in the estimation of their country, by delaying to urge any objection to it until they had first tried its operation, and experienced actual injury from it, they waited until, in common with others, they found that the inefficacy of that measure was one of its best recommendations. When these new orders in council were issued, it was their purpose to follow the same line of conduct; and after endeavouring to make themselves masters of the meaning of those decrees (an attempt which certainly demanded no trifling degree of attention, and occasioned a very considerable delay) it was much their wish to have found them as harmless as that of the 7th of January; but, although they are very far from flattering themselves that they yet understand the nature of those orders of November last, and although they can scarcely hope for the rare good fortune of ever attaining that knowledge, they are satisfied that they have discovered by the effects which they already have produced upon their own concerns, enough of their nature and import to feel that they are utterly ruinous to them.

"It will afford them much satis-

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faction to reflect, that they have been the means of bringing before you so great a body of important information, for elucidating a subject as difficult as it is momentous, and to know that whatever fate may await their petition they have done their best to enter a lasting protest upon the journals of the country, against measures more dangerous to its prosperity than any that were ever before attempted. Plans of this sort, sir, are not in their nature long-lived; and after these orders shall be known no more, or only remembered in the ruinous effects they may have produced, the mass of evidence which the petitioners have piled up at your bar, will remain, not perhaps to deter pernicious schemers from again meddling with the commerce of the country, but surely to warn the country from listening to their councils.

"Sir, in proceeding to state the import of this body of evidence it is necessary that I should go back, in the first place, to the decrees of the French government which are stated to have given rise to the measures complained of; and between which and those measures there appears to be some dispute, as to the occasion of the calamities that have arisen.

"Late in the year 1806, Bonaparte, in a moment, it should seem, of elation unbappily by no means unnatural in his situation, thought of issuing a decree which might affect the trade and navigation of this country, as extensively as those other decrees which he had issued upon the Continent, and had executed by half a million of armed men. This decree was not then for the first time tried, nor was it accounted by him an experiment of a very novel description, although received in this country as something wholly new.—It had been repeatedly tried before, and had in every instance manifestly failed. Not to go back to the war of 1739, I may only observe that in the war of 1756, the principle was broadly laid down by the French government, that the seizure of any manufactures or produce of the British dominions should render the whole cargo among which they were found,

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liable to confiscation. Towards the end of the American war a similar principle was partially attempted to be introduced: but of these I need not say much; for in the course of the Revolution-war two decrees similar to the former, though still more near the Berlin decree, were issued. Of these it may be necessary for me to mention the substance. The first of them was issued in 1796, and after a variety of other clauses, it subjects all ships carrying British goods to seizure and detention. We find not merely the detail of the Berlin decree introduced as to the goods, but also the provision requiring a *certificate of origin* (as this document has since been called) which was deemed a *sine qua non* for saving the ship and cargo from detention. A similar decree was issued in 1800, after Bonaparte's arrival in France. It was generally promulgated, and remains, as far as any such decrees can be, in force. In 1797 those belligerent principles were extended from the cargo to affect the ship; and I hold in my hand a decree issued by the council of Five Hundred, enacting that the characters of vessels shall be determined by their cargoes. In consequence of this enactment, every vessel loaded in whole or in part with English goods, was declared lawful prize. The second article declares that no foreign vessel, which in the course of her voyage shall have entered an English port, shall be permitted to enter any port in the French dominions.

"It is surely needless for me to prove that, although these orders were thus promulgated, they never were executed. I need not bring evidence to show that these commercial decrees were nugatory. After they were issued, the progress of our exports proceeded not merely increasing, but in a short period almost to double the amount of former times. It is notorious that France, in spite of all such prohibitions has been consuming daily more and more of the produce of this country, down to the period of the Berlin edict. But, however inefficacious these boasts may have proved, the enemy, it seems, determined once more to try their

effect. He resolved to have another decree at us and at our trade, expecting, perhaps, to frighten, if he could not hurt us. Accordingly, in the month of November, 1806, he issued that one which forms the pretext for our orders in council. This decree consists of three branches. It condemns all cargoes of British produce or manufacture; it threatens the seizure of all vessels going to or from England; and it shuts the ports of the enemy against all vessels which have last cleared out from British ports. It may be asked what chance was there that such a decree as this should succeed? Was it that France had determined suddenly to assemble all her fleets, and venture to send them to sea, which she had not dared to do before? Was it that she then intended to engage all our blockading and cruising squadrons, which till now, she never durst look in the face? Was it that she purposed in this manner to beat us out of the water, and destroy, as it were, our naval superiority? Or was it that without these preliminary steps, she was by her mere influence and great name upon the continent of Europe, to stop all vessels sailing upon the sea to or from England, to seize every article of our produce which could be found floating on the ocean, to do that which we, even we, with all our naval superiority, are not able to effect? Surely if France had not the power to execute her design in some of these ways, it might have been calmly regarded as a mere empty menace; nay, a stale one too. We might really have hoped, that so vapid and spiritless a boast would not again have taken in those who had been so often before duped into a vain alarm by it. Nevertheless it should seem that the enemy knew us better, for we no sooner heard of it than we fell into our old error of supposing, that, because it was a French manifesto regularly drawn up, and enforced by Bonaparte's power on shore (where it might produce some effect) therefore it was also to have similar effects by sea.

"Sir, until our orders in council were issued, it appears clearly, without any reasoning, to any one who

looks at the subject, that there was no possibility whatever of Bonaparte putting his threats into execution.— But in order to show this more evidently than could possibly be effected by any arguments, we have brought witnesses to your bar, merchants engaged in trade with the Continent who have been able to state distinctly by dates, names, and circumstances, the manner in which those decrees operated.

“In page 55 of the printed evidence, Mr. White an insurance-broker of the city of London, in answer to a question, whether he had occasion to charter any vessels direct to the continent, after the Berlin decree, states to this house, that he did himself charter two American vessels for Amsterdam, the one in the month of January, and the other in March, 1807, which both arrived safe. From this it appears therefore that four months after the Berlin decree, two vessels were chartered to the continent, and landed and sold their cargoes in safety at Amsterdam. He says that these vessels were chiefly laden with cotton, produced by America, and the West-Indies: he knew of their being discharged and that “the ships were paid for their labour,” and adds that he was paid his commission as ship and insurance-broker. In short, these voyages were performed safely from one end to the other. In the next page the same witness mentions, first, that American vessels prior to last November used to clear out regularly from this country to the continent, and there land their cargoes; and secondly, that a considerable quantity of West-India produce had been taken over in American vessels, subsequent to the Berlin decree in November, 1806. The same witness mentions other instances of voyages having been performed since that decree, and some in which the cargoes of the vessels had gone into the ports of Spain, in spite of the Spanish decree, issued in terms of the Berlin decree, and with cargoes of British East-India produce on board. On being asked whether any considerable branch of trade was carried on in this way, he distinctly adds that other brokers as well as himself had trans-

acted similar business, and that this sort of intercourse with the continent has been considerable.

“The evidence of Mr. Bell, whose distinct and full testimony must be in the recollection of this house, was very strong to the same points. He gives us two extracts from letters which he had received from his correspondents on the continent. On being asked if he had lately received letters from his correspondents in Holland, touching the execution of the commercial decrees in that country, he stated that he had received a letter from his friends in Rotterdam, dated the 7th of September, containing these words: “We are able to assure you the late decree does not affect Americans that may have called in England, provided they have not loaded in England, and that they declare the last port they came from.” The decree here alluded to was subsequent to the first Dutch edict, and was issued for the purpose of effecting a more rigorous execution of it. He was asked have you received any letters since from Holland?” To this he answered that he had one dated 22nd of September, from the same house saying, “We repeat, ships touching in England are received here as before.” Subsequent even to this date it appears that he received one: It was dated 29th of October, only a fortnight before our orders in council, and concluded by saying, “Prices meantime seem at their level without some new difficulty or broil, meaning, as Mr. Bell said, “if nothing new had occurred.” From this it is obvious that since the writer’s last letter, being the one just now quoted, no new execution of these decrees had been attempted, otherwise prices could never have kept at their former level.

“After mentioning a variety of cases, in which the merchants had been deceived in their expectations or belief of the execution of the French decree, by the temporary detention of neutral vessels, and afterwards been undeceived by the subsequent release of those vessels at first supposed to have been condemned, Mr. Glennie said that he knew of no one instance wherein the Berlin decree had been carried into

execution upon neutral vessels in France. It appears that this gentleman had various correspondents in various parts of the continent, who wrote to him, not merely touching his own commercial concerns, but also upon matters in which he was indirectly or eventually interested. They gave him the political news of the day so far as they themselves were in possession of it; and so far as it bore upon the interests of trade. And notwithstanding this extensive correspondence, he never had received any one notice of a condemnation, during the whole year that had elapsed between the Berlin and the English decrees. From Mr. Glennie's evidence then it appears that there was no intention in France to execute those edicts for this was a branch of them which she had it in her power to enforce.

"A decree had been issued in Holland, closing the Dutch ports and laying an embargo on their own trade for the better carrying those measures into execution—a measure framed in something of the spirit of our own orders. In allusion to this decree, Mr. Glennie's correspondent says on the 26th of February, 1808, that "the sole object of this letter is to inform you that all vessels arrived since the promulgation of the decrees mentioned in our foregoing, are now released, and even several which have been for many months detained in Flushing, on their way to Antwerp, have also got permission to proceed thither and discharge their cargoes."

"It thus appears, sir, by the evidence of some of the most respectable brokers and merchants of this country, that the Berlin decree was so little executed, that vessels under American colours cleared out to ports of the enemy's country in spite of that, and all the other decrees. But there is other evidence of a less direct nature substantiating this important proposition. I should mention first as to the indirect evidence of the non-execution of the Berlin decree, that remittances came over from the Continent to merchants in this country, some of them members of this house, during the year after that decree, in the same manner, and in at least as great abundance as at any former period. Mr.

Glennie said that he was accustomed to receive in former years half a million in remittances from the Continent; and being asked, not by me, but on his cross-examination, if he had experienced a defalcation subsequent to that Berlin decree, answered distinctly, that on the contrary, he had never before received so much by a hundred thousand pounds as during the year after the Berlin decree was promulgated. The other witnesses state the same thing.

"Mr. Glennie also stated to you in detail, the amount of the sums which he paid in different years for postages in the course of his extensive dealings as a merchant. In page 65, you have it in evidence that his whole postage account for the year 1805 amounted to 455*l*. In the year 1806 (being the year before the Berlin decree) it amounted to 515*l*. and in the year 1807, to 640*l*. Now as the Berlin decree was supposed to put a stop to all neutral commerce between England and the Continent, and as this gentleman's postage is chiefly created by receiving remittances for goods arriving in the hostile countries, it was to be expected in consequence of that Berlin decree being executed so rigorously as the defenders of our orders contend, that Mr. Glennie's postage account would have suffered a serious defalcation. No such thing—on the contrary, in 1807, the year after this frightful and well-executed decree, he appears to have paid 640*l*. being about one-fourth more than he had paid the year before it was issued, and double the increase of his account in any former years.

"Those merchants, sir, act in some sort, as bankers on account of American concerns, answering drafts made on them in favour of our manufacturers. When there is any interruption in the trade with the Continent, of course Mr. Glennie and others scruple to honour those drafts on American account, unless they be safe in doing so by having funds in their own hands. It is therefore a test of the execution of the enemy's decrees to inquire how these gentlemen answered the drafts subsequently presented to them. Mr. Glennie states that subsequent to the issuing of the Berlin decree, he continued to

answer drafts on American account, although he had not the sums in his hands, trusting, not, as a speculative man, but with that sort of confidence belonging to a practical merchant—a confidence of whose practical nature he gave the best pledge by staking thousands of pounds daily upon it—trusting I say with this sort of confidence, that the Berlin decree was of no avail whatever against our trade. Had it been otherwise he would have altered his line of conduct in the same manner as I shall show you he afterwards did when you issued your famous orders in council.

“The only other symptom, with which I shall trouble you, of the non-execution of this Berlin decree, is derived from the criterion of insurance; the house will perceive that questions were put to Mr. Martin with a view to bring to a determination, this point respecting the rate of insurance. He was asked, whether, in his knowledge and in the course of his practice as a merchant, shipping to America and chartering and insuring vessels, he had found that the rate of insurance rose after the Berlin decree, upon voyages in American ships from this country to America and back again; and this question was put to him because it was said that a rise from two to three guineas, or one half, had taken place upon this voyage—as if the power of the French navy was so considerable in the Atlantic, that it could make a difference of fifty per cent. in the rate of insurance against French cruisers, employed in executing the Berlin decree—as if the bare promulgation of that decree had at once swept the sea clean of our ships, and given over into the enemy’s hands, all the neutral trade that remained. Mr. Martin, as well as all the other witnesses, stated, that there is a rise every winter in consequence of sea risque, the summer rate being from two to two and a half, and that of the winter from three to three and a half per cent. But was there an additional or extraordinary rise in the year after the Berlin decree—in the year 1807? Mr. Martin says that there was not; but that the premiums were much the same as in 1806, that is, the summer two and a half, and the winter three and sometimes four guineas premium.

“The news of the Berlin decree reached Liverpool on the 11th of December 1806, and on the 13th of that month Mr. Martin had occasion to effect an insurance on American risque: it was from America to Liverpool, and was done at three guineas per cent.—Then had the *Berlin decree* raised the insurance? So far from it the premium on the very same voyage, as appears from the evidence, was exactly the sum of three guineas per cent. in the year before. Upon being further questioned whether any rise did at all take place, he says, some little rise was occasioned at first, after the knowledge of the Berlin decree came to Liverpool; but that was a temporary effect; thus he believed the premium would have been five guineas per cent. upon the same voyage outwards, but on the 13th of February the insurance was effected upon the same vessels at three guineas per cent. being the common winter premium.

“I am entitled here to dismiss the subject of the Berlin and other decrees with this one remark, that there is not only no evidence of those measures having been enforced, but every argument and fact against the power of the enemy to urge them in some respects, and in others to show that he had no desire to do so. The evidence of former decrees never having been executed, is entirely of the same sort, and our past experience affords us every argument to show that they were incapable of execution. Our experience, I say, affords us evidence that neutrals will of themselves continue to evade those decrees as long as you yourselves facilitate that evasion. From the facts produced by the testimony of the witnesses who have been examined and *cross-examined*, a consistent statement is made out, that those new decrees of the enemy have been nothing but as so much waste paper; in other words that they are a repetition of the ancient, unprofitable, and rapid gasconade of the French government. It shows us that these decrees had not and could not have had any effect, but to evince to the world that Bonaparte had some desires which he could not gratify; one scheme, at least, which he could not compass—and that with respect to this country, they were of no strength or avail whatever, until we ourselves

lent our aid to them by our own vigorous measures.

"I now come, sir, to the fatal part of the case set forth in the petitions now upon your table. I think I can prove, sir, that we ourselves, blinded and alarmed by the empty menaces of the enemy, which we had often before experienced to be ineffectual, terrified by vain fears which we could not describe, and arguing from the very uncertainty of the darkness in which we were, that some evil was impending, we knew not what, countersigned all the decrees of the enemy—backed their futile threats with our real and solid orders—carried them triumphantly into execution by our all powerful navy—and reduced the commerce of the country to that state, to that pitch of degradation, to which, he, our inveterate enemy had wished, but in vain wished, by those decrees to reduce it, and to which by no other earthly power but our own could he have succeeded in bringing it. Sir, I am now to call the attention of the house to the orders in council that have been lately issued by the present government, as they affect the foreign trade of this country; and I have to lament exceedingly upon the part of the petitioners, to whom the truth of the statement I am about to make is a matter of most serious concern indeed, that you are now to contemplate the very reverse of the picture which I have hitherto brought before you. You have seen that attempts have frequently been made by the enemy to ruin our trade, but that they always proved abortive. You are now to exchange that for another prospect, and view the attacks made upon our commerce by our own force and by our own wisdom—that force, and that wisdom, which had in every former instance succeeded in frustrating all invasions of our country—repelling all attacks upon our trade—turning the commerce of neutrals into the channels most beneficial to our interests—and converting to our own purposes, the very bitterest decrees of the French themselves. You will find that in every quarter we have, by our orders in council, been crossing and striking in with the enemy's plans, and supplying those deficiencies in their orders, which they in vain at-

tempted to make up. You will see too what the result has been—that the commerce of this once flourishing country is now brought down to a state lower than it ever was expected to reach, even by the most gloomy prophets, in the worst times of our history."

The great importance of the American trade to these countries, is thus brought forward by our able advocate: a trade not lightly to be given up to please the whims of our speculative statesmen. America has rendered herself independent of us in government, and if the present system of aggression towards her be continued, she will probably be independent of us in commerce at no very distant period. It is clearly proved, that the trade of America with the continent of Europe is even necessary to Great Britain for opening a channel for paying the balance due to our merchants.

"Let me here refer the house to the general testimony of all the witnesses engaged in the American trade, for a knowledge of the particular course of commerce, which we carry on with America by means of the continent. The manufactures of this country being bought up by the merchants, (in some few instances they are exported by the manufacturers themselves) are sent over to America, at two seasons in the year, in what are called by all the witnesses, the *spring* and *fall* shipments. I shall not attend to the latter, but shall take the instances of the spring shipments, in order to elucidate this subject. The orders for these are begun to be received and executed pretty early in the month of November. In December, and part of January, the transmission and preparation of the orders proceeds, and before the end of the month of January, each year, the orders for the spring shipments may be said to be almost completed. Sometimes, indeed, they encroach a little upon the month of February, but substantially you may take it, as proved by all the witnesses, that the orders are wholly received before the middle of the month of January. The goods that are thus sent to America, are chiefly manufactures peculiar to this country; for example these of Man-

chester, which indeed are shipped by no set of men to a greater extent, than by the Petitioners now at your bar. The payment of the goods thus sent over is made in a comparatively small proportion in American produce, chiefly cotton and tobacco, shipped directly from America to this country. This proportion amounts in general to about one part in three, which I will show, if the house will favour me with its attention, when I state for one year the course of American trade with the British empire; for that will be a more satisfactory argument, and go a greater way in demonstrating the necessity of the continuance of such a trade, than if I were to attempt describing it in any other manner.

"In 1804, according to the official accounts printed in America, by order of the houses of Congress, there were shipped from America to England, or I should rather say to the British dominions in Europe, American produce, to the amount of nearly three millions sterling, viz. 2,971,462*l.* reckoning dollars at the usual rate of 4*s.* 6*d.* sterling. From the same part of our dominions there appear to have gone over to America, in that year, goods to the amount of 6,213,645*l.* The exports from America to the British East Indies amounted in the same year to 29,500*l.* and the imports to America from thence amounted to nearly one million sterling, being 979,488*l.* The exports from the United States to the British settlements in North America amounted to 253,627*l.* and the imports from the latter to 178,135*l.* This balance, however, in favour of America on the trade with our Northern colonies, is only an apparent one. The sums which I have read are taken from the duties on importation; and Plaster of Paris, the chief article brought into the United States from our settlements, being absolutely necessary to the American farmer in the cultivation of his land, is not taxed, and of course is omitted in the estimate. It amounts to greatly more than the rest of the imports from Canada, &c. and leaves the balance here, as in general, against America. The exports to the British West Indies, during the same year, amounted to 1,585,722*l.* and the imports from thence in return were 1,066,316*l.* On this

head then there appears to be a balance to a considerable amount in favour of the United States. But from this must be deducted the real balance on the New Brunswick trade, at whatever it may be estimated, and even admitting the full balance as now stated, of nearly half a million on the West Indian branch of the account, the whole trade between America and our dominions gives a large excess of imports from us, over what we take in return. For even on this view of the account, the total amount of the exports from America to the British empire, in the year 1804, will be 4,840,058*l.* and the amount of the imports into the United States from the British empire, 8,437,984*l.* being about double the former sum. This great balance is moreover rapidly increasing; for, by taking the average of the years 1802, 1803, and 1804, we find that the excess of imports above exports was only three millions instead of four millions and a half, to which it had risen in 1804.

"The accounts, sir, on the table of this house confirm these statements taken from the American official documents. I hold in my hand a paper ordered to be printed on the 15th of March, and giving the value of imports from the United States, and exports thither, for the years 1805, 1806, and 1807. It appears from this document, that in 1806, the imports from America to Great Britain amounted to 4,360,743*l.* real value, and that the exports from Great Britain to the United States, in the same year, amounted to 12,865,551*l.*

"If we take the average of those three years I have mentioned, viz. 1805, 1806, and 1807, we find the exports to the United States of America amount to upwards of twelve millions sterling, and the average of imports to upwards of four millions and a half; and as the disproportion is increasing, we may say in general, that this country now exports to America three times as much as she imports from thence.

"Are you willing to continue exporting to America, twelve millions and a half of British produce and manufacture, or are you not?—If you are, how are you to be paid for it? It is evident, that you only receive four mil-

flows direct from America; therefore there are no less than eight millions wanting. And America, we all know, can only pay you by trading with the continent. If you wish to cut up that trade by the roots, you commit that old solecism of power, as my Lord Bacon so well calls it;—you wish to command the end, but you refuse to submit to the means. You desire to trade with the United States of America; but you desire, at the same time, to lop off their trade with the enemy, as you call it, which is in other words lopping off the very commerce which you carry on with your enemy, in spite of the war, and in spite of himself—by which you were getting eight millions sterling each year—by which you were enabled to continue a trading nation. You are destroying the only means by which America can pay that enormous amount to you. She must have the opportunity, not only of taking your goods, but of exporting her own, in order to pay you. She must not only export her own goods, she must also re-export yours with them. In order that you may still send them to your enemy, notwithstanding the hostilities you are engaged in—notwithstanding the decrees he is threatening your trade with. So stands the matter in argument, or if you will in theory, and I now invite this house to say, whether it is possible for them to conceive any thing more precise and conclusive than the evidence which has been adduced at your bar, to show that this is also the matter of fact, from the actual history of our trade with America.

“The witnesses most largely engaged in this commerce told you repeatedly (and it was so uniformly stated by each of them, in answer to the same question, that it is unnecessary for me to quote from the testimony of them all) they all concurred in telling you that they received remittances in payment of goods sent to America, from merchants acting as bankers for Americans in this country. Beside this, we have called those bankers to your bar, and have asked them how they came to be possessed of their remittances. They have told you that they have two ways of receiving the funds drawn upon by our manufac-

turers; that they get part, and but a small part, in goods, directly from the United States, and another part, which is by far the greatest part, in remittances from Europe, by bills arising from the sale of American produce on the continent, made payable to manufacturers and exporters of manufactured goods here. Mr. Bell has stated these remittances as forming two parts in three of the whole account. Mr. Glennie has told you that they are ten times more than he receives in the direct way from America; and Mr. Mann states them at three parts in five. They have said, that with these funds they answer bills drawn in favour of the manufacturer in this country, and at other times balance accounts with the United States. And being asked whether they only accepted those bills in consequence of the remittances in their hands—they said they freely accepted such bills, trusting to the continuance of the trade by which they had formerly received payment; and for the majority of their correspondents, they always accepted bills, whether they had goods already in their hands or not, when they knew consignments continued to be made as before to the continent.

“Now, sir, apply to the English decrees, those tests—the amount of remittances, and the willingness of merchants to accept bills, which you have already applied to the execution of the Berlin decree, and then tell me what you think is the effect of the orders in council upon our foreign trade. You will find it the very contrary of that which might have been expected by the sanguine projectors of the new system. Applicable to this subject, you will find among others the very distinct testimony of Mr. Glennie. This gentleman told you, as I formerly observed, that the year after the Berlin decree, so far from having received less from the continent on American account, he had received one-fifth more than in any former year. How much then did he receive since the orders in council? Compare the months January and February, 1807, with the same months in 1808, and this will be the test of the effect of the orders in council upon his trade. He answers,

that in the months of January and February 1807, the amount of the remittances he received was about 103,000*l.* In consequence of those boasted measures of wisdom and vigour which were to bring all the trade of America with the Continent through our ports, one would suppose he should have received 200,000*l.* in the same period of the subsequent year.—No such thing.—He received only 34,000*l.* Does he expect even this pittance in the next two months?—Far from it. He tells you this is the last he shall receive; it is the arrears or balance of the former accounts, and no new one can be opened.—Such then is the effect of the orders in council upon Mr. Glennie's traffic; he received instead of 103,000*l.* the sum of 34,000*l.* and in the next two months he cannot receive a shilling.

In every cross question that was put to him, he not only adhered to the statement which he had made, but put it in a stronger and stronger light, if possible, as he proceeded.—This plain fact, made out by his testimony, as well as that of all the other witnesses called to your bar, evinces to demonstration, that while the orders in council continue, you must continue to be cut off from receiving remittances, and that you are consequently with your own right-hand, cutting off, by two-thirds, your vast traffic with America.

“Having stated the substance of Mr. Glennie's evidence, it would be in vain to go through that of the other witnesses. It was proved that bills were refused on account of the want of remittances. The particulars of those bills, and the sums for which they were drawn, were stated at

your bar. In this unprecedented state of things, an unheard of practice appears to have crept into the course of commercial transactions. The statement of insolvency or no funds, is the usual ground of protesting or refusing bills; but the reason in this case is, not that the drawers are insolvent; not that they have any fears of the insolvency of the drawers, for they had an entire confidence in the solvency of their correspondents:—but that they had no funds in their hands, and expected to get none; and knowing well the cause of all this, they wrote down on the protest, that they could not accept these bills *because of the orders in council!*”

We have entered into this subject at considerable length, from a sense of its importance. We wish our readers to become acquainted with it, and we think to give a full detail of this speech, and copious extracts from it, is the best mode of putting them into possession of this measure of state-policy, to which we have so often alluded in the Commercial Reports, and to which we fear increasing distress, arising from its pernicious effects, will force us to recur in our future numbers.

In our next we design to continue this article with further extracts from the important documents furnished by this speech. The present apparent relaxation on the part of America with respect to the embargo, does not appear likely to produce any change ultimately beneficial to this country, unless a spirit of conciliation influences our councils at home, an event we ardently desire, but of which we entertain great fears. H.

To be continued.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

THE threatening appearances which presented themselves to the view of the politician at the close of the last month, have at length been realized; uncertainty is removed, or to speak more properly, our anxiety is transferred from the origin of the war to its result. We see all the powers of Europe with a strange fatality presenting themselves singly and successively to the sword of Bonaparte, as if their main object in resisting was to augment the splendours of his triumph.

The Spanish war is still protracted. It is the dying embers of a mighty conflagration, that sends forth intermitting sparks, raising a momentary expectation that the flame is about to break out afresh, but in reality only hastening the period of utter extinction. The Junta of Seville still performs the functions of a legislative and executive body; and Spanish armies are still heard of. Rumour catches at every whisper, and the exultation of victory one day is checked by the gloom of treachery, and defeat on the next. We are told that the people of Galicia, irritated by the ill treatment of their ferocious masters, are again up in arms, and have signalized themselves by some successful attacks, in consequence of which Marshal Soult, who commands the French forces in that part, has found it necessary to retreat into Portugal. His retreat, if it be the fact, has been attended with advantageous circumstances to his cause. The city of Oporto, after a defence not very creditable to the military character of the Portuguese, has surrendered, and our troops still remaining in that country, seem to afford the only hope of preserving the capital from again becoming the headquarters of the invading army. So conscious are the Portuguese of their incapacity, that an English officer, General Beresford, has been appointed Generalissimo of the Portuguese army. He has commenced his operations by a Manifesto. That an English General, accustomed to command freemen, should employ this as a preparative to rouse the energies of an

oppressed people into action, appears very natural, but of its effect on a nation of slaves, we cannot but entertain great doubts. The general character of the Portuguese gives rise to fears that success under the command of a foreigner may be as injurious as defeat. By this time the arrival of Sir Arthur Wellesley has augmented the English army in that country to a very great amount, and if ably seconded there can be no doubt of their retaining possession of the country against the forces at present brought against it. The advantages of the acquisition or the possibility of retaining it are more uncertain. An impoverished country, an effeminate nobility, a population either torpid or discontented, afford but little cause for encouraging the hope that much more benefit can be derived from the possession, than the excluding of the common enemy; the same causes, together with an extended frontier and a powerful force in reserve to overwhelm resistance seem to render the latter problematical. It must be evident to all, that if Portugal be retained, it must be retained by an English force, and such a force, as England scarcely can maintain without depriving other parts of the Empire of their proper means of defence, or supporting the military establishment in all parts, by an excessive drain from the population of the nation. The same reasoning bears also upon Spain. But the affairs of both these countries have already lost a great share of interest by the new antagonist that has started up to oppose the French Emperor in his rapid course of victory.

For the causes of the Austrian war, in order to avoid repetition, we refer the reader to the political retrospect of last month, in which it was asserted that it was forced on that unfortunate country by the domineering spirit of France, which would be satisfied with nothing but the total sacrifice of its independence. The Archduke's proclamation* evinces this.

*See official Documents, p. 310.

He there declares that every concession consistent with the honour or safety of the empire had been ineffectually made, and that this is a war of self defence. A passage in his manifesto has excited much inquiry. He states that the exertions of the native army of Austria is to be seconded by external succours, it is not yet known what these succours are, conjecture at first turns upon the Emperor of Russia; but his interests are too closely implicated with those of his present ally to render a change advantageous, unless indeed, the visit of the Queen of Prussia may have effected an alteration in his political relations.

Prussia or some of the princes of the German confederation are thought by others, to be alluded to; disgusted as they may be with the servile vassalage under which they at present bow, it can hardly be thought that they would risk their all on such a precarious stake. England is also mentioned, and with great probability, while some go so far as to suppose that it is but a delusive ray of hope offered to encourage the desponding spirits of the Germans. Of men, we trust England will be very sparing; of treasure, we doubt not she will be lavish, profusely lavish; the augmentation of the loan for the current year from ten millions, as was lately stated with no small degree of triumphant exultation to fifteen millions, confirms this supposition. Of the two, the latter is no doubt preferable; commerce can supply new pecuniary resources;

But a bold Peasantry, their nation's pride,
When once destroy'd can never be supplied.

On the present state of Turkey, and the probable consequences of the late tumultuary revolution there, we hazarded some conjectures; these, by the latest accounts appear to be realized; the capital is still in a state of ferment, the executive distracted, unsettled, and at the mercy of a fierce and lawless soldiery; the minister that calculates on effectual succour from such a government, must be very weak, or reduced to the greatest extremities.

Let us now turn our eyes to the north. The insurrection which broke

out in Sweden at the close of last month, has assumed the features of a permanent well concerted revolution. The people or a great majority of them, irritated by the destructive war in which they had been so long and so unsuccessfully engaged, and attributing the loss of national honour and territory partly to the loss of their old system of government, and partly to the imputed incapacity of the present possessor of their usurped rights, all sighed for the termination of a war by which nothing could be gained and all might be lost. The Russians had had possession of Finland and several of the islands; they threatened still greater encroachments; the commerce of the country was in a great measure annihilated; the king was disliked by most, and living in a state of austere seclusion, an imitator of his immortal predecessor, without his abilities, increased the public odium by the comparison of the state of Sweden at each period. The opportunity was favourable, and men were found with ability sufficient to take advantage of it. The Duke of Sudermania, supported by the army, seized on the government, and imprisoned the king, when making a vain attempt at resistance. His subsequent proclamations are well adapted to make a favourable impression on the people, by holding out the restoration of their former mixed form of government, and promising to call a Diet speedily. The beginning of May is fixed for that purpose. Till then our judgment of the revolutionists must be suspended. In the mean time it is said that the king's cause has been espoused by a large party of his subjects. If so, a civil war must ensue, the consequence of which will be, the interference of Russia, either as arbiter or ally, an interference in either case equally fatal to the independence, we may say the existence of the Swedish monarchy.

England has had a gleam of success, to lighten the gloom which succeeded the disgraceful evacuation of Spain. Disgraceful it was, not to the army, for their excellence has been acknowledged, even by the enemy; but to the ministry, whose misconduct forced a gallant officer into a situation where he was prevented from acting from his own judgment, and suffered the mortification

of seeing one of the finest armies that ever was destined to revive the ancient name of Britain, moulder away under all the hardships of unsuffered defeat and flight. In the West Indies, the surrender of fort Bourbon has reduced the whole island of Martinique. In a commercial point of view, the acquisition cannot be thought very valuable, at a time when the want of a vent for West Indian commodities is so severely felt. As a military post, its possession may be necessary, by depriving the enemy of a receptacle for the privateers which so incessantly annoy our trade. The French squadron, which after its escape from Brest, had taken refuge in Basque roads, has been nearly destroyed.

Of the squadron which had been observed in a southern latitude no accounts have as yet reached England.

With respect to domestic concerns, though the inquiry into the abuses of the military departments of government has terminated, its effects have not yet ceased. It was indeed of a nature fitted to excite a spirit of investigation and reform not easily to be checked or stifled. It has extended; the voice of the people has gone forth, and will be heard. Meeting after meeting in every part of England are the organs of this universal voice. At first it was weak and timid, with difficulty causing itself to be heard in the metropolis, but the opposition it met with served only to rouse the spirit of the people. They felt that opposition in such a case was adding insult to injury. Succeeding events have increased the eagerness for investigation and reform. Many circumstances which transpired during the inquiry, have proved the existence of similar abuses in other departments. The management of the East India company's affairs in particular have come under an investigation before a committee of the house of commons, in the course of which, amongst a number of instances of corruption and undue influence, one has appeared which seems to implicate a nobleman, who stands much higher in the good opinion of the royal cabinet than in the confidence of the people. The part of the evidence before the house, respecting him, tends to involve him in

a traffic of East India appointments for increasing his parliamentary influence. His conduct will no doubt be the subject of a more particular inquiry.

It is much to be regretted that this inquiry had not taken place some years earlier; the affairs of Ireland would then have formed a part of it, and we should have been made acquainted with the secret means by which the union was effected and the actors in that memorable tragedy of the death of Irish independence exhibited in their proper characters.— But the time is now past, and the people of this country ought to change useless regret into an active sentiment of co-operation with the friends of reform in England, as the only means to compensate for the loss they have suffered.

Sentiments of surprise and disappointment have been raised in the breasts of many on observing the apathy with which the parliamentary transactions are received in this country. It is certainly matter of grief, but not of surprise or disappointment. Suffering under the effects of a civil commotion, the wounds of which have scarcely yet had time to heal, deprived, by the suspension of the habeas corpus act, of the blessings of that constitution whose fundamental principle is the right of personal liberty and private property, with the sword of power hung up in *terrorum* over the head of every individual in the kingdom, an arbitrary power granted to the British Minister cutting the hair by which it is suspended, and crushing at will the victim of his displeasure, it were indeed matter of surprise and wonder if the nation would venture fully to express its feelings. Yet notwithstanding these awful impediments, such is the sensation excited by the recent discoveries, that it has extracted an expression of indignation. The city of Derry has voted an address of thanks to Colonel Wardle, the town of Belfast is about to second its resolutions. It has been said that the latter place should have been among the first to come forward on such an occasion. We think otherwise. It is not the first burst of popular indignation, stimulated by the voice of dis-

contented partizans: it is the solemn, matured well digested sentiment of all, in a cause where all are concerned, where the voice of party is unheard, where the very existence of party is lost in the universal feeling excited by such a vital blow at the honour and existence of the nation.

Next month we shall have the pleasure of announcing the resolutions of the meeting convened for this purpose. We are confident they will be worthy of the place whence they come, and the cause by which they are excited. We are confident that they will make some impression; happy, if they lead to the point to which they are directed, by turning the minds of the directors of our nation from private interest to public welfare; and teaching them this most important truth, that "REFORM ALONE CAN PREVENT REVOLUTION."

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PROCLAMATION OF THE ARCHDUKE CHARLES.

"*Vienna, April 6.* The protection of our country calls us to new exploits. As long as it was possible to preserve peace by means of sacrifices, and as long as these sacrifices were consistent with the honour of the throne, with the security of the state, and with the welfare of the people, the heart of our bountiful Sovereign suppressed every painful feeling in silence; but when all endeavours to preserve happy independence from the insatiable ambition of a foreign conqueror prove fruitless, when nations are falling around us, and when lawful sovereigns are torn from the hearts of their subjects—when, in fine, the danger of universal subjugation threatens even the happy states of Austria, and their peaceable, fortunate inhabitants—then does our country demand its deliverance from us, and we stand forth in its defence.

"On you, my dear brother-soldiers, are fixed the eyes of the universe, and of all those who feel for national honour and national prosperity. You shall not share the disgrace of becoming the tools of oppression. You shall not carry on the endless wars of ambition under distant climes. Your blood shall never flow for foreign fleets and foreign covetousness; not on you shall the curse alight of annihilating innocent nations; and over the bodies of slaughtered defenders of their country to pave the way for a foreigner to the usurped throne. A happier lot awaits you; the liberty of Eu-

rope has taken refuge under our banner. Your victories will loose their fetters, and your brothers in Germany, yet in the ranks of the enemy, long for their deliverance. You are engaged in a just cause, otherwise I should not appear at your head.

"On the fields of Ulm and Marengo, whereof the enemy so often remind us with ostentatious pride, on these fields will we renew the glorious deeds of Wurtzburg and Ostrach, of Lipsingen, (Stockach) and Zurich, of Verona, of the Trebbia and Novi. We will conquer a lasting peace for our country; but this great aim is not to be attained without great virtues. Unconditional subordination, strict discipline, persevering courage, and unshaken steadiness in danger, are the companions of true fortitude. Only an union of will, and a joint co-operation of the whole, lead to victory.

"My Sovereign and brother has invested me with extensive powers, to reward and to punish. I will be everywhere in the middle of you, and you shall receive the first thanks of your country from your general on the field of battle. The patriotism of many of the Austrian nobility has anticipated your wants; this is a pledge in the fullest measure of the public gratitude; but punishment shall, with inflexible vigour, fall on every breach of duty: merit shall meet with reward, and offence with animadversions without distinction of person or rank; branded with disgrace shall the worthless person be cast out to whom life is dearer than his and our honour.—Adorned with the marks of public esteem, will I present to our Sovereign and to the world, those brave men who have deserved well of their country, and whose names I will ever carry in my heart.

"There remains one consideration, which I must put you in mind of; the soldier is only formidable to the enemy in arms; civil virtues must not be strangers to him: out of the field of battle, towards the unarmed citizens and peasants, he is moderate, compassionate, and humane: he knows the evils of war, and strives to lighten them. I will punish every wanton excess with so much greater severity, as it is not the intention of our monarch to oppress neighbouring countries, but to deliver them from their oppressors, and to form with their princes a powerful bond, in order to bring about a lasting peace, and to maintain the general welfare and security.

"Soon will foreign troops, in strict unceasing union, attack the common enemy. Then, brave companions in arms! honour and support them as your brothers: not vain-

lorious high words, but manly deeds, do honour to the warrior,—by intrepidity before the enemy you must show yourselves to be the first soldiers.

"Thus then, shall I one day lead you back to your own country, followed by respect of the enemy, and by the gratitude of foreign nations, after having secured by your arms an honourable peace, when the satisfaction of our monarch, the approbation of the world, the rewards of valour, the blessings of our fellow-citizens, and the consciousness of deserved repose await you.

"CHARLES, Archduke,
"Generalissimo."

PROCLAMATION,

ISSUED BY THE DUKE OF SUDERMANIA, ON HIS ASSUMING THE GOVERNMENT.

"We, Charles, by the Grace of God, hereditary Prince of Sweden, the Goths, Vandals, &c. Duke of Sudermania, Grand Admiral, &c. &c. do declare—That, under existing circumstances, his Majesty is incapable to act, or of conducting the important affairs of the Nation: We have, therefore (being the nearest and only branch of the family, of age) been induced, for the time being, as administrator of the Kingdom, to take the reins of Government into our hands, with the help of the Almighty, we will conduct so that the Nation may again Peace, both at home and abroad, and that Trade and Commerce may revive from their languishing state.

"Our inviolable intention is, to consult with the States on the means to be taken to render the future time happy to the people of Sweden.

"We invite and command, therefore, all the inhabitants of our Nation, our vassals by Sea and Land, and also the civil Officers of all degrees, to obey us, our real intention, and their own well-being demand.

"We recommend you all to the protection of God Almighty.

"Done at Stockholm Palace, March 1, 1809.

(Signed) "CHARLES.

"C. LAGERBRING."

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, to Viscount Castlereagh; dated Corunna, Jan. 13.

"STRUTTED as this army is at present, it is impossible for me to detail to your Lordship the events which have taken place since I had the honour to address you from Astorga, on the 31st of December: I have therefore determined to send to England, Brigadier-General Charles Stewart, as the Officer best qualified to give you every information you can want,

both with respect to our actual situation and the events which have led to it.—Your Lordship knows, that had I followed my own opinion, as a military man, I should have retired with the army from Salamanca. The Spanish armies were then beaten; there was no Spanish force to which we could unite, and I was satisfied that no efforts would be made to aid us, or to favour the cause in which they were engaged.—I was sensible, however, that the apathy and indifference of the Spaniards would never have been believed; that had the British been withdrawn, the loss of the cause would have been imputed to their retreat, and it was necessary to risk this army to convince the people of England, as well as the rest of Europe, that the Spaniards had neither the power nor the inclination to make any efforts for themselves. It was for this reason that I made the march to Sahagan. As a diversion it succeeded; I brought the whole disposable force of the French against this army, and it has been allowed to follow me, without a single movement being made to favour my retreat. The people of the Gallicias, though armed, made no attempt to stop the passage of the French through the mountains. They abandoned their dwellings at our approach, drove away their carts, oxen, and every thing that could be of the smallest aid to the army. The consequence has been, that our sick have been left behind; and when our horses or mules failed, which on such marches, and through such a country, was the case to a great extent, baggage, ammunition, stores, &c. and even money, were necessarily destroyed or abandoned. I am sorry to say, that the army, whose conduct I had such reason to extol on its march through Portugal, and on its arrival in Spain, has totally changed its character since it began to retreat. I can say nothing in its favour, but that when there was a prospect of fighting the enemy, the men were then orderly and seemed pleased and determined to do their duty. In front of Villa Franca the French came up with the reserve; with which I was covering the retreat of the army; they attacked it at Calcabellos. I retired covered by the 95th regiment, and marched that night to Herresias, and from thence to Nogales and Lugo, where I had ordered the different divisions which preceded, to halt and collect. At Lugo, the French again came up with us. They attacked our advanced posts on the 6th and 7th, and were repulsed in both attempts, with little loss on our side. I heard from the prisoners taken, that three divisions of the French army were come up commanded by Marshal Soult; I therefore expected to be attacked on the morn-

ing of the 8th. It was my wish to come to that issue; I had perfect confidence in the valour of the troops, and it was only by crippling the enemy that we could hope either to retreat or to embark unmolested. I made every preparation to receive the attack, and drew out the army in the morning to offer battle. This was not marshal Soult's object. He either did not think himself sufficiently strong, or he wished to play a surer game by attacking us on our march, or during our embarkation. The country was intersected, and his position too strong for me to attack with an inferior force. The want of provisions would not enable me to wait longer; I marched that night; and in two forced marches by advancing for six or eight hours in the rain, I reached Betanzos on the 10th instant. At Lugo, I was sensible of the impossibility of reaching Vigo, which was at too great a distance, and offered no advantages to embark in the face of an enemy. My intention was then to have retreated to the peninsula of Betanzos, where I hoped to find a position to cover the embarkation of the army in Ares or Redes Bays; but having sent an officer to reconnoitre it, by his report I was determined to prefer this place. I gave notice to the Admiral of my intention, and begged that the transports might be brought to Corunna; had I found them here on my arrival on the 11th, the embarkation would easily have been effected, for I had gained several marches on the French. They have now come up with us, the transports are not arrived; my position in front of this place is a very bad one; and this place, if I am forced to retire into it, is commanded

within musquet shot, and the harbour will be so commanded by cannon on the coast, that no ship will be able to lie in it. In short, my lord, general Stewart will inform you how critical our situation is.—It has been recommended to me to make a proposal to the enemy, to induce him to allow us to embark quietly; in which case he gets us out of the country soon and this place, with its stores, &c. complete; that otherwise we have the power to make a long defence, which must cause the destruction of the town. I am averse to make any such proposal, and am exceedingly doubtful if it would be attended with any good effect, but whatever I resolve on this head, I hope your Lordship will rest assured, that I shall accept on terms that are in the least dishonourable to the army or to the country. I find I have been led into greater length, and more detail, than I thought I should have had time for; I have written under interruptions, and my mind much occupied with other matter. My letter, written so carelessly, can only be considered private. When I have more leisure, I shall write more correctly; in the meantime, I rely on general Stewart for giving your lordship the information and details which I have omitted. I should regret his absence, for his services have been very distinguished; but the state of his eyes makes it impossible for him to serve, and this country is not one in which cavalry can be of much use. If I succeed in embarking the army, I shall send it to England; it is quite unfit for further service until it has been refitted, which can best be done there.

JOHN MOORE.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

The great utility of an increased intercourse in this part of the country, by means of the various Coaches that have lately been established, is generally admitted; it is therefore with pleasure, we notice the intention of the Proprietors of the Belfast and Derry Mail Coaches, to run a Day Coach from Cookstown to Belfast, by Moneymore, Magheralelt, Castledawson, Toome, Randalstown, &c. We also are informed, that arrangements have now been completed for running the Mail Coach the whole line of road from this Town to Derry; to commence on Monday the 1st of May. This will, no doubt, prove a great convenience to passengers, and when we consider the difficulties which have been surmounted

in this undertaking, and that the fare &c. are, notwithstanding, as moderate as on the well-frequented Dublin road, we are inclined to think that such an establishment is entitled, in a peculiar degree, to the public patronage.

On Monday the 20th of March, a cow the property of Mr. William Clancy, of Quarterland, near Bangor, had 5 lambs—three of them males, and two of the females—all stout, and likely to do well.

PLOUGHING-MATCH.....The following should have appeared in our last number being a subject we wish to pay particular attention to, but was overlooked.—Several Gentlemen in the parish of Maralin, lately set on foot a subscription for offering premiums to the best plough-

man, and a match was accordingly held on the 14th of March, on the lands of Lurgantery, near Dromore, where six ploughs appeared on the ground, each drawn by two horses, and having no driver. The work was in general well done. The judges were chosen before the work commenced, and retired from the ground until it was finished, that no imputation of partiality might justly attach to them from their knowing the persons who executed it.

The first premium, of three guineas, was adjudged to Pat. Lavery, ploughman to Mr. John Christy, of Kircassock; the second, of two guineas, to John Downy, ploughman to Mr. Sloan, of Ballymakeowan; and the third, of one guinea, to Richard Brinkman, jun. of Tullycairn, holding his own plough. The judges were unanimous in their decision—and being respectable men and farmers, without either interest or prejudice to bias their judgment, their decision was satisfactory to all who were not connected with those who did not obtain the premiums they expected, or had committed themselves by staking money on their performance.

ANTRIM....Married....Mr. John Hamilton, of Fairview, to Miss M'Kibbin, of Belfast. Capt. Ritchie, to Miss Nichol, of Belfast. At Glencuce, Mr. Wm. Kerr, to Miss Isabella Learmouth, of Stranraer. At Larne, the Rev. I. C. Ledlie, to Miss Holmes.

Died....At Lambeg, aged 25, Mr. John Wolfenden. At Lyle, near Templepatrick, Mrs. Gibson, aged 75. Aged 18, Miss Carleton, daughter of Mr. C. Carleton. In October last, of a fever at Kingston, Jamaica, J. Kelly aged 16 years, son of the late Captain Kelly of this town.—In Nov. last, at Kingston, Jamaica, in his 8th year, J. Fitzsimmons, son of Mr. J. Fitzsimmons of High-street, Belfast. On Wednesday the 19th, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, wife of Mr. R. Kirkpatrick, of this town, merchant. On the 15th instant, aged 82, Mr. J. Smith, tanner, a respectable inhabitant of this town.

ARMAGH....Married....Mr. W. Boyd of Ointzpass, to Miss J. Kelly of Eliza-hill, near Banbridge.

Died....At Guilford, aged 56, Abraham Atkinson, one of the people called Quakers. He was the person who first introduced the export lawn-trade, from this country to England. Mr. S. Kidd of Inenvale near Keady. Miss J. Brown daughter of the late Mr. J. Brown merchant. Mr. John Barnes. Mr. John entice.

Down....Married....At Ballylentoagh, BELFAST MAG. NO. IX.

near Hillsborough, Dr. Allen of Comber, to Miss Graham, daughter of W. Graham esq. of Linistrain. At Lurgan, R. M'Kee of Armagh, esq. to Miss E. J. Hudson of Lurgan.

Died....At Killileagh, aged 22, Mr. T. Kennedy. On the 19th, Mr. Charles M'Quillin, aged 80.

FERMANAGH....Married....At Enniskillen, Mr. W. Clarke, architect, to Miss P. Acheson.

LEINSTER.

The Dublin Society has lately directed its attention to the laudable purpose of encouraging the culture of Hemp in this country; a measure which will, no doubt, be attended with the happiest consequences. The following is the resolution published on the 23d ult.

"That a premium of forty shillings an acre be given for the first 750 acres of ground sowed with Hempseed, on or before the 2d of May, in the year 1809; and if a greater quantity of ground should be claimed for than 750 acres, the sum of £1500 will be rateably divided amongst the Claimants."

To entitle Claimants to the above premium, the following terms must be complied with:

"An Affidavit of the Claimant, that the Ground was in sufficient order for sowing Spring Corn, and that there were sowed four bushels of good Hempseed* on each and every acre so claimed for, on or before the 2d day of May, 1809; the aforesaid claim, together with a certificate of a neighbouring Magistrate upon view, to be sent into the Secretary's Office on or before the first day of December, 1809.

DUBLIN....Married....W. Johnson, esq. of the Monaghan Regiment, to Miss H. Savage of Prospect, co. Down.

Died....At his house, in Merriam-street, aged 81, the Right Hon. John M. Mason. In Merriam-square, the Countess Dowager of Mayo.

QUAKERS' COUNTRY....Died....On the 5th instant, in the 77th year of his age, James Pim, of Rushin near Mountrath, one of the people called Quakers. A man whose many amiable qualities endeared him to his family and friends.

MUNSTER.

CORK....Married....T. Fuller Harnet, esq. to Miss Wilkes of Ballinacolly.

LIMERICK....Married....Mr. S. B. Goggin, bookseller, to Miss Drew, of Scariff, county Clare.

* The Society think it necessary to recommend five bushels; but if very carefully sowed and covered, four may answer; and it is requested that an accurate Return of the Produce may be made with each claim.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From March 20, till April 20, 1809.

THE weather since last Report, has been dry, and favourable for sowing the spring-corn, which has been generally got into the ground in good order.

The wheat crops have not made a progress equal to their appearance last month, the severe frosts at night have had the effect to check the growth of the early, and, in some degree, injure the late crops. In several districts there are complaints of the ravages of the cut worm, particularly where the wheat was sown after clover.

The farmers are now busily employed in preparing their ground for potatoes; it is much to be wished that they would more generally adopt the drill culture of that valuable root, which would not only afford them the advantage of a larger crop from the same quantity of manure, but free their land from weeds, those robbers of the soil, more effectually than can be done in the lazy-bed way.

The only branch of husbandry that seems at a stand is flax, very little of which has yet been sown; the exorbitant price of seed, added to the reports circulated, of importations from America being expected, have induced the land-holder to decline purchasing, in hopes of a favourable change; the retailers of seed have also been discouraged from buying at the present prices, lest it should prove a bad speculation, as was the case last year, and of course there has been no opportunity presented to the smaller grower of flax to supply themselves in the usual way.

The reports of large importations of seed from America have been, within these two or three days revived, and will probably be the means of protracting the sowing beyond the proper season, and unless realized by the arrival of the seed, be productive of great disadvantage to the country.

Oat meal and potatoes have continued nearly stationary since last Report.

Fat cattle, from the early consumption of the turnip-crops, as was hinted in a former Report, are become scarce, and the price of beef has considerably advanced in consequence.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

AT the conclusion of last Month's Report, great doubts hung over the exact state in which the American Embargo stood; these are now partly cleared up, and it appears that the Congress conceding to the cry of the mercantile party, have permitted the sailing of their vessels to neutral ports, while they are prohibited under heavy penalties, from coming directly either to Great Britain or France, or any of their immediate dependencies. Holland is not included in this restriction, nor is the island of Madeira; a proof of the impartiality of America, notwithstanding the clamour of her adversaries: an indirect trade is thus sanctioned with both countries. Madeira being as much virtually a dependency on Great Britain as Holland is on France. The Americans have also passed a non-intercourse act with Great Britain and France, to take place on the 20th of next month, the effects of which if not softened by conciliatory measures on the part of those mighty rivals, the belligerent powers, may not unlikely lead to war with one or other, or perhaps with both of them. The Americans, have, however left an open in this non-intercourse act, for reconciliation, with whichever of these powers, which may first recede from their hostile decrees, or orders in council. A ray of hope is held out in some late conversations in parliament, that prudent concession may take place with regard to that highly impolitic measure, the British orders in council.

In America, matters appear to stand thus: the great body of the people are firmly agreed to resist what they consider the aggression on neutral rights; they consequently support the system of the executive, which is in this respect the index of the popular feeling of a great majority of the United States. But on the mode of carrying into effect this opposition, some diversity of opinion appears to prevail. The Mercantile interest wish for an opportunity to send off their superfluous articles; hence the relaxation in the embargo laws, that Great Britain and France may receive American produce through the subterfuge of calling at neutral ports. But it is worthy of observation, that though they admit their own articles to be exported, yet by the operation of the non-importation act, their ports remain closed against the importation of British or French manufactures. And while this continues to be the case, the ill-judged policy of the British orders in council operates, as a high premium in favour

of American manufactures. The non-intercourse act is a measure of still stricter regulation, by which all vessels of Great Britain or France are prohibited from entering into the ports of the United States. It is greatly to be feared that unless conciliatory measures are speedily adopted by our government, actual hostilities may shortly take place. If British cruisers interrupt American vessels going to Holland, war seems to be the inevitable consequence.

Connected with the obnoxious policy of these orders, and of most momentous importance to us in this quarter of the empire, is the expectation of the arrival of a timely and sufficient supply of flax-seed from America, which after all the hopes, which have been held out, and the sanguine expectations which have been formed, remains at the moment of writing this report (the 26th) a very doubtful speculation.

But whether the much wished for, and highly needful supply arrive in time or not, we are entitled to feel no obligations to our statesmen, their adherents, or their echoers. They risked all on a doubtful throw, or to use the figurative language, to which Irishmen are said to be prone, contented themselves with "skying a copper," during the winter, when something effectual might have been done, to remove the dreaded calamity, and whether flax-seed or distress succeeded, depended no more on their sagacity or foresight, than whether "skull or music," was the result of the throw. To the policy of a foreign legislature, probably yielding to necessity, we are indebted for a supply of flax-seed, if that desideratum be at all procured.

At the time the business was first agitated, the true policy was obvious, to petition to have the restrictions, which prevented our receiving the supply removed. Our rulers had a plain path before them: to concede to the necessities of the people, but a tortuous and crooked policy was adopted, and our Irish minister of finance, first opened the English oil stores, poured in a quantity of seed into this country, part of which was of a very inferior quality, and then prevented the people from sowing, by holding expectations of seed arriving from America, which it was very doubtful would not be realized.

It is computed, that as yet not 20,000 hogsheads have reached this country, instead of 45,000 or 50,000, the quantity usually sown. Even if seed arrive in time from America, a large deficiency remains to be supplied. To sow more than the usual quantity is especially necessary after the defective crop of last year. Notwithstanding the difference of opinion which has subsisted as to the proper mode which ought to have been pursued, it must be the wish of all parties, that an adequate supply of good seed may be sown—but there is room to fear, that an ample supply at this advanced period of the season may not arrive in time, and that the poorer people, discouraged by the high price, may not sow all that may arrive, to their own great loss, as in the event of the price falling, they only risk the loss of a few shillings in the purchase of the small quantities they may want; but in case of not sowing, they encounter the danger of losing the means of employment and subsistence for the whole ensuing season. Last year they also judged erroneously, by suffering the high price to deter them from sowing, and much advantage would have accrued if the 6,000 hogsheads which were unsold had been sown. Theorists have said, that speculation is not hurtful—but practical injurious effects do arise from it. It perhaps might not be difficult to show that the true mean lies between the former dread of monopolies, and the present more fashionable doctrines on this subject. The spirit of our poorer farmers, and others in similar situations, is adverse to the high prices attempted through a system of speculation. To a certain degree such a disposition deserves to be cherished, but they may carry it so far as to injure themselves. It now appears evident, that the high prices at first demanded for flaxseed, would not have been paid, and if they had continued, the grounds would have been appropriated to other purposes, although to individual and national loss.

The transactions of the late and the present year, in the flaxseed market, furnish useful hints of caution to speculators. In India whole provinces were desolated by a monopoly of rice, but with us commerce is too extended, and our people too sturdily to permit such plans to be realized.

Much flax is in the hands of speculators, both in England and Ireland, who may probably find it a heavy bargain. It is difficult to procure sales, and the price is nearly nominal. From the injudicious manner in which flax was bought up, probably much of the stock on hands in the warehouses is of inferior quality. At one period, they bought with great avidity, as if secure of enriching themselves, if they only had the possession of flax, though at very exorbitant rates.

From present appearances a very considerable reverse seems likely to take place in commercial speculations. The holders of American produce, especially cotton, and all articles connected with the trade to America, may not probably find their golden dreams realized. The spirit of speculation has been carried to unwarrantable lengths, and those who have given way to it, must be expected to suffer. They have contributed to reduce trade to such a state of uncertainty, as to make it resemble too much a speculation in the lottery. Some blanks are now coming up. The quiet unambitious trader has been jostled by the busy speculators, and it is but just that these should have their share of perplexity. Adversity is often a useful instructor, whose lessons are enforced by compulsion.

Many of these evils are assignable to the commercial warfare in which we are engaged. The capitals turned from the former regular channels of trade, have flowed into those of speculation. Large purchases have been made, great gains have accrued in many instances, and probably great losses in the revolution of the wheel will also occur.

A motion has lately been made in the house of commons, by our countryman, Henry Parnell, to equalize the currency between Great Britain and Ireland, but for the present the measure was negatived.

Discount on gold is now reduced to 1, or $1\frac{1}{2}$, per cent. Exchange has risen, being generally, through the month for guineas, about 7 per cent. and for notes, 8 to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. A most unfounded report was current for a day or two, respecting one of our northern banks, notwithstanding its undoubted respectability. Great caution should be used in circulating reports injurious to the credit of such establishments. It is one of the evils attendant on a paper currency, to be subjected to false alarms. Under present circumstances, whether desirable or not, paper is likely soon to be our only circulating medium, and to push out, by degrees, the very small quantity of guineas now remaining in circulation. But if the issue from the banks be excessive, or more than is readily and naturally absorbed in circulation, the notes will speedily recoil on the issuers, who, in such cases, will suffer at least as greatly as the public. An occasional check may have a salutary effect, by preventing inordinate issues.

West Indian produce continues to sell at depressed prices.

From present appearances in the North of Europe, our commercial prospects are not brighter in that quarter. The restrictions on the trade in the Baltic, will probably become more severe, without a friendly port in the North to shelter us, and with both sides of the Sound in possession of hostile powers. Of course timber and other northern produce, will probably be still more difficult to procure. The high price of timber continues to occasion much distress to many of our working classes. The small supply which hitherto has come from Canada, affords both in quantity and quality but a very poor substitute. The unjust attack on Copenhagen appears to have alienated the northern powers completely from us; and we must suffer from the effects of this iniquitous proceeding. In speaking of public measures, it is right to set down things as they are, and neither to flatter individuals nor nations in their errors or vices.

MEDICAL REPORT.

*List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from
March 20, till April 20.*

Barometer.....highest	30 10	Thermometer.....highest	50 00
mean	29 30	mean	48 00
lowest	29 0	lowest	34 00
Typhus, - - - - -	2	Contagious fever.	
Synochus, - - - - -	2	Of a mixed nature between inflammatory and typhus fe.	
Ophthalmia - - - - -	3	Inflammation of the eyes.	[ver.
Pneumonia, - - - - -	1	Pleurisy.	
Rheumatismus acutus, -	2	Acute rheumatism.	
Aphtha, - - - - -	2	Thrush.	
Phthisis Pulmonalis, -	1	Consumption.	
Asthma, - - - - -	2	Asthma.	
Ascites, - - - - -	1	Dropsy.	
Abortus, - - - - -	1	Abortion.	
Dyspepsia, - - - - -	3	Indigestion.	

<i>Asthma</i> , - - - - -	3	Nervous Debility.
<i>Hæmoptysis</i> , - - - - -	1	Spitting of blood.
<i>Catarrhus</i> , - - - - -	4	Common cold.
<i>Dysentery</i> , - - - - -	1	Flux.
<i>Herpes</i> , - - - - -	3	Ringworm, or tetter.
<i>Scrophula</i> , - - - - -	5	Evil.
<i>Gonorrhœa</i> , } - - - - -	8	Venereal disease.
<i>Syphilis</i> , - }		

Morbi infantiles, - - - 25 Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

We decline making any observations on the diseases of this month, in order to make room for the bill for regulating inoculation for Small Pox (now before a Committee of the House of Commons) which cannot fail being highly interesting to the public:

"Whereas the inoculation of persons for the disorder called the Small-pox, according to the old, or Suttonian method, cannot be practised without the utmost danger of communicating and diffusing the infection, and thereby endangering, in a great degree, the lives of his majesty's subjects; May it therefore please your Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the first day of August next, no medical practitioner or other persons shall inoculate patients for the small pox within the distance of three statute miles, within the distance of the utmost boundary of houses adjoining to each other, of any city, town, hamlet or village of the united kingdom, in which there are ten houses adjoining to each other, under the penalty of forfeiting fifty pounds for every such offence, to be recovered before two magistrates, upon the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to be levied in case of conviction, upon the goods and chattles of the offender; and half of such penalty shall go and be paid to the informer, and half towards the establishment of a fund for the relief of any poor person or persons who may happen to be taken ill of the infectious small pox, in the parish in which such offence shall have been committed; and which fund shall be at the disposal of the clergyman and churchwardens or overseers of the poor of the said parish for the purposes aforesaid.

"And be it further enacted, That all medical practitioners or others inoculating for the Small-pox, or Suttonian method of inoculation, and where infection can be communicated therefrom without the limits or distance prescribed by this act, shall cause the words 'Small Pox Hospital' or 'Pest-house,' written or printed in large and legible characters, to be affixed upon some conspicuous part of the house or houses so employed in, or occupied for that purpose, under the penalty of fifty pounds, to be levied and applied in like manner as herein before directed, for his, her, or their neglect in doing the same.

"And be it further enacted, That in case any person or persons shall be taken ill of the infectious small pox in any city, town, hamlet or village, in which there shall be ten houses adjoining to each other, that then, and in such case, the person or persons so taken ill shall be removed by their family or relations as soon as he, she, or they shall be deemed fit by a medical person so to be removed at their own expense, or in case they are deemed incapable of bearing the same by two magistrates of the district, then at the immediate expense of the parish in which they are so taken ill; and which expense, together with all other reasonable charges, at the discretion of two magistrates of the district, shall afterwards be reimbursed by the parish or parishes to which such person or persons shall respectively belong, to some convenient and proper distance, such distance to be settled and appointed by the magistrate or magistrates of the district in which such case shall occur, and there to be taken proper medical care of, on pain of forfeiting, by the occupier of the house in which such person shall be taken ill, the sum of five pounds for every such offence, such penalty or penalties to be levied and applied in the same manner as hereinbefore directed by this act; and the master, mistress, or principal occupier of any house or houses where such infected person or persons shall be taken ill, or to which he, she, or they shall be removed by virtue of this act, and all persons whatever in the united kingdom having at any time the infectious small pox in his, her, or their house or houses, shall cause the words, "Small Pox here," written or printed in large and legible characters, to be fixed on some conspicuous part of his, her, or their house or houses for so long as the infected person or persons shall actually continue therein the same in an infectious state as small pox patient or patients, under the penalty twenty pounds for neglect in doing the same, for any such offence, to be levied and applied in the same manner as herein-before directed by this act.

"And be it further enacted, That every master or mistress, or principal occupier of any house or houses situated within any city, town, hamlet, or village, in which there are ten houses adjoining to each other, shall within twenty-four hours after the same shall have come to his, her, or their knowledge, inform the church-warden or church-wardens, or overseer or overseers of the poor of the parish in which such house or houses shall be situated, of such infectious small pox being in his, her, or their house or houses, under the penalty of ten pounds for neglect in doing the same, for every such offence, and which penalty or penalties shall be levied and applied as herein-before directed by this act.

"Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no penalty or penalties contained in this act shall be levied within the space of two calendar months from the time of the party or parties being convicted of the offence for which such penalty shall be incurred; and if it shall appear to two or more magistrates that the infectious small pox shall not have spread in consequence of any such offence, or neglect of any of the provisions or regulations contained in this act, but on the contrary, that the communication of such infection shall have been effectually prevented by proper and sufficient means, then and in such case it shall be lawful for such justice of the peace or magistrates, and they are hereby directed to remit the whole of any such penalty or penalties, any thing in this act contained to the contrary notwithstanding."

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From March 20, till April 20.

Now thickly strewn in woodland bowers,
Anemones their stars unfold;
Now spring the sorrel's veined flowers:
And rich in vegetable gold;
From Calyx pale the freckled cowslips born,
Receive in jasper cups the fragrant dews of morn.

The easterly winds which have prevailed, and the frosty nights, have so considerably retarded vegetation, that fewer flowers than usual have made their appearance during this period, our woods and glens are however now highly ornamented with the more fully expanded flowers of the beautiful white wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis Acetosella*) and our old pastures with the common Cowslip (*Primula veris*.)

23, Double cupped Andromeda (*Andromeda Calyculata*) flowering.

29, Single Daffodil (*Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus*) Starch Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus racemosus*) Blue Appenine Anemone (*Anemone Appenina*) flowering.

30, Alpine wall cress (*Arabis Alpina*) Official Lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*) flowering.

April 1, Dogs or scentles Violet (*Viola canina*) flowering.

8, Italian squill (*Scilla Italica*, Roman Cranesbill (*Erodium Romanum*) flowering.

13, Snowy Medlar (*Mespilus Canadensis*) flowering.

17, Marsh Marygold (*Caltha palustris*) and Sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) flowering.

19, Field-fares (*Turdus pilaris*) not departed as yet for the North.

20, Bernacle or Brent Goose (*Anas Bernicla*) yet remain in our Bay, in considerable quantities.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From March 20, till April 20.

METEOROLOGY, which has engaged the attention of modern philosophers, presents such a variety of objects to view, that it is beyond the power of any person to enter minutely into detail, and embrace every department. The great Halley employed himself, successfully for a series of years, in tracing the course of the periodical winds, and the justly celebrated Kirwan, by collecting innumerable observations made in different places on the temperature, has formed a theory, and given Tables, that render future observations on temperature more a matter of curiosity than use, and it now only remains for us, by collecting facts, and by observations to endeavour to prognosticate the changes of the wind, and the appearances of approaching storms. In every country the direction from whence the wind blows influences more or less the succeeding state of the atmosphere. Among a variety of phenomena which we have not had it

in our power satisfactorily to trace, is whether the East and N. East winds are to be regarded as sea breezes. In the neighbourhood of Belfast these winds are as regularly diurnal as the sea breeze is mentioned to be in the West Indies, rising with the sun and declining with it in the evening. If any of our inland friends have made observations which may lead to illustrate more fully this peculiar tendency of our maritime breeze, or any of those on the western coast will favour us with observations on the western winds, their communications will be thankfully received.

Cold dry days, or days rendered disagreeable by heavy showers of hail, have characterized the time elapsed since our last Report, and our flattering hopes of a premature summer have been unrealized. But for this disappointment the experienced endeavour to console us by saying, late Springs always make fruitful Autumns.

March 21st Rain,
 23 Fine morning, wet evening,
 24 Rain,
 25 Showers,
 26, Rain,
 27, Showers,
 28, 29, Cold, with light showers,
 30, 31, Dry, cold days,
 April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Dark, cold days, on the 3d a few flakes of snow fell in the morning; on the 5th, thin ice in the morning,
 6, Rain during the night; a dry day,
 7, 8, 9, Dark, dry days,
 10, Rain during the night; a dry day,
 11, 12, Squally with heavy showers,
 13, Showers,
 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, Hail showers, which on the 17th and 19th made the mountain tops white,
 20, Clear, cold day, thin ice on shallow waters in the morning.

On the 13th and 14th of April the Barometer was 28.9. Sixteen days it was below 30. Twelve days above 30.

Although the Thermometer by which the observations are made, is suspended from a wall, facing the North-west, it has risen so suddenly after the cold of the night, that at 8, A. M. on the 4th of April, when it stood at 35, the cold of the night had congealed ice strong enough to resist the heat of the whole day, where the water was shaded, the greatest heat at 8, A. M. was April 8, 50°. April 9th, 49°.

The wind was observed Northerly 15, Southerly 10, Easterly 5, and Westerly two times; of the intermediate points the prevalence was easterly.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR MAY 1809.

On the first, the Moon rises at 20 min. past 10, aft. being then under the thirteenth star of the Scorpion and Saturn, having passed the former a few minutes before 1 o'clock, and the latter at 1. The star and planet are very near each other, and during the night with the Moon and first and second of the Scorpion, form a pleasing groupe. The Moon sets at 23 min. past 6, next morning.

Fifth, the Moon rises at 58 min. past 0, morning, and is soon followed by the two first stars of the Goat; she passes the second of these stars at half past two afternoon. She sets at 48 min. past 9, morning.

Tenth, The Moon rises at 2 min. past 3, morning; passes the meridian at 8, and sets at 48 min. past 3, aft.

Sixteenth, She rises at 6 in the morning, being 1 hour and 58 min. later than the Sun; soon after sun-set she is perceived between the horns of the Bull, the Pleiades and Aldebaran, sinking under the horizon, and Venus being very near it. She sets 58 min. past 9, aft.

Twentieth, She rises at 49 min. past 9 morning, and is near but to the west of the two first stars of the Crab; above her we may see the stars in the Lion, and much nearer to her, but lower, are the small stars in the head of Hydra. At 9 she is 71° 38' from the first of the Virgin, she sets at 12 at night.

Twenty-fifth, She rises at 54 min. past 3, aft. and passes the meridian at 10 min.

past 9, having the first star of the Virgin below her to the east, and the fifth at a considerable height above her on the meridian; at 9 she is $48^{\circ} 36'$ from the first of the Lion, and $51^{\circ} 21'$ from Antares. She sets at 20 min. past 2 the next morning.

Thirtieth. She rises 5 min. past ten aft. considerably to the east of the two first stars of the Scorpion and Saturn, being soon after followed by the twelfth of the Archer; at nine she is $69^{\circ} 48'$ from Spica in the Virgin, and $79^{\circ} 12'$ from Pegasus. She sets at 13 min. past 6 next morning.

Mercury is a morning star in the beginning, and an evening star at the end of the month; his superior conjunction taking place on the 12th. From the 25th he will adorn the heavens towards the north-west by west, and will be seen for a considerable time after sun-set.

Venus is an evening star in the beginning, and a morning star towards the end of the month; her inferior conjugation being on the 24th. The Moon passes her on the 15th.

Mars is on the meridian on the 1st, at 32 min. past 10, and on the 20th at 12 min. past nine, having directly above him the third of the Virgin.

Jupiter is a morning star, and moves with a direct motion through six degrees and a half; the early riser will observe him in the east. The Moon passes him on the 11th.

Saturn is on the meridian at 50 min. past one on the morning of the first; his motion is retrograde through $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. This planet, with the first and second of the Scorpion, and the small stars in this constellation, form a very pleasing groupe through the whole of the month.

Herschell passes the meridian on the 1st, at 9 min. past 12 at night. The moon passes him on the 1st.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.				4th SATELLITE.			
<i>Inmersions.</i>				<i>Inmersions.</i>											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
1	14	20	24	1	6	50	10	2	11	44	44 Im.	12	2	45	21 Im.
3	8	49	0	4	20	8	23	2	14	25	19 E.	12	4	17	55 E.
5	3	17	31	8	9	27	24	9	15	46	10 Im.	28	21	11	46 Im.
6	21	46	6	11	22	45	36	9	18	25	37 E.	28	22	20	25 E.
8	16	14	37	15	12	4	41	16	19	47	23 Im.	* First Satellite Continued.			
10	10	43	12	19	1	22	55	16	22	25	51 E.				
12	5	11	42	22	14	42	3	23	23	49	21 Im.				
13	23	40	16	26	4	0	18	24	2	26	43 E.				
15	18	8	46	29	17	19	28	31	3	50	25 Im.				
17	12	37	19					31	6	26	43 E.				
19	7	5	47												

Look to the right hand.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are much obliged to our Correspondent W.H.D. who dates from Dungannon.—He informs us that the "Ten Days of Happiness," an article which lately appeared in our Magazine was borrowed from Walker's Hibernian Miscellany. Previously to publication we had doubts on the originality of this article, and inquired in our notices to Correspondents, if it were original. We heartily join our Correspondent in reprobating the folly of those, who send us a plume they have stolen from others, as their own. Such a practice is the lowest kind of literary imposture.

We have reason to think that "Spinbrain," and "The Maid's Husband," are similar impostures. A Fragment does not suit our pages. We solicit Contributions from our Friends; but let them be original. We also venture to recommend simplicity of style. Essays, however short, may be nevertheless very interesting, if the subject be properly handled; of such collections a Magazine is properly formed. Like contributory streams which diversify and adorn the face of the country, they swell the general current, and add to its utility. We particularly solicit descriptions of towns and places in our own country, accompanied with views of society and manners among us. We wish our Magazine in this respect, to furnish a kind of gazetteer, or Ireland delineated, affording amusement and instruction to our readers at home, and also to our brethren on the other side of the channel.

*** We hoped to exhibit to our subscribers a specimen of the Yarn spun by Ann McQuillin, and had procured some for that purpose, but finding what we had got was insufficient, we were disappointed of getting another hank. In our next Number we hope to gratify our readers by affixing to each number of the magazine a small sample of fine yarn of her spinning.

Owing to an inaccuracy of the Binder, some of the sheets in some copies of our last Number were misplaced.—We request that any of our Subscribers, who may have received such erroneous copies may return them, that the error may be corrected.

THE

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 10.]

MAY 31, 1809.

[Vol. 2.

The Proprietors of the BELFAST MAGAZINE, to prevent any misapprehension in future, and to afford full scope to free discussion, give notice to their Readers, that the EDITOR is not accountable in his official character for any article which may appear in this Magazine, whether relating to Politics, Theology, Science, or Taste, unless he himself be the writer of that article. It is the established rule among the Proprietors and the Editor, that each is accountable for what he may respectively communicate, agreeably to the principles which they have already laid down in their Introductory Paper. Contributions furnished by Correspondents, are, in cases of doubt, ultimately decided on at the general meetings of the Proprietors.

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

SIR,
I HAVE observed, with pleasure, the particular attention you pay to every thing relative to Education. The proposal of Simplex, in your last but one, is of this kind, and from its great importance, and extreme utility, if put into practice, deserves particular notice.

His plan of generalising Education, by bringing it home to the door of every person in the kingdom, at a small expense, either to the government or the people, would be of the most essential service, and in all probability tend as much to conciliate the minds of the lower classes to the government, as any other measure recommended for that purpose. It will be worth while inquiring more particularly, how far the plan he has adopted for effecting this desirable purpose is practicable, and what prospect of success we may reasonably flatter ourselves will accrue from its adoption.

The peculiar advantages of this scheme seem to be its extent, and cheapness. As to the first, its excellence is indisputable; Ireland contains 2436 parishes; if four schools were established in each of these, their number would amount to 9744, which, at the rate of 36 pupils to each (the number specified in the plan) would supply the means of instruction to 351,284 children. The number of inhabitants of Ireland is computed to be $5\frac{1}{2}$ mil-

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lions. Of this number it may be fairly supposed that five millions are of that class who would wish to profit by such schools. I am not sufficiently versed in economics, to determine the proportion of this number that would be of an age to receive instruction, but if I might be allowed to guess from a very slender knowledge, the number of males from eight to fourteen years of age, which includes the time from which public instruction usually commences, until they are of an age to assist their parents in the works of the field, or manufactures, would not be more than one tenth of the male population, or 250,000, whence it appears that this scheme provides means of education for more than what could take advantage of it. If, however, as I am inclined to think was the case, the writer included the female as well as male population in his calculations, the number to be educated must be doubled, and the means of instruction will then be found in some degree inadequate. But at the same time it is evident that it may easily be enlarged, at a trifling additional cost.

The expense of maintaining this establishment comes next to be considered. The sum mentioned is 120,000*l*, which, even by the writer's concession, will be found insufficient. He allows fifty pounds per annum to be granted by parliament to each parish, for supporting schoolmasters. This alone, makes a sum of 121,800*l*. But as it is to be supposed that a few parishes will

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prefer a smaller number, the parliamentary grant may be supposed adequate to cover this expense. But it is said that the parish must also provide a small sum to defray contingent expenses. Money given for a public purpose is a tax, let it be drawn from the people as it may. It matters little whether it be immediately transferred from the pocket of the land holder to the person who is to be supported by it, or arrive at the same destination by the more circuitous course of revenue officers and clerks of the treasury. The only difference is, that in the former case, having a shorter course to run, and meeting with fewer points of contact in its passage, it will be less liable to diminution. This additional sum, which must be taken into the account, is not named in the sketch, but cannot be fixed at less than two pounds for each school, or eight for each parish, making in all an increase of 19,488*l*. To this must also be added, the salaries of thirty-two county visitors. Each of these will have the superintendence of 304 schools; they are to be paid at the rate of 75*l*. for every hundred schools (which allowance will be found insufficient, as I shall prove hereafter) making their yearly salary 225*l*. each, or in all 7,100*l*.

To this must also be added the salary for the agent to the supreme committee, and an allowance for incidental expenses attending the communication between the several branches of this system.

The expenses will stand, according to the foregoing statement, nearly as follows :

Parliamentary grant . . .	120,000
Parochial grant	19,488
Visitors' salaries	7,100
Agents' salary, say . . .	400
Incidental expenses, say	500

£147,488

In the first year the expenses will be more than doubled; for in addition to all the payments in the foregoing table, the building of school-houses must be taken into consideration. To defray this, the writer supposes a grant of 50*l*. from the public, and 12*l*. 10*s*. from each parish will be sufficient. I am inclined to differ with him. The building of each school

would cost 30*l*. at the least, that is 120*l*. for each parish. And though in some, houses are already provided, yet as he supposes, that in such cases the money granted for building schools is to be appropriated for providing dwelling houses for the teachers, nothing is to be deducted on that account. But even by his own calculation the expenses of the first year will stand as follows :

Parliamentary grant for building	121,800
Parochial grant for do. . .	30,450
Salaries, as per table. . .	147,488
	£299,738

The foregoing statements are not made with a view of raising difficulties to a plan, the intention of which is so excellent, and the general outline so feasible; on the contrary, it will be found that incorrect estimates have a much greater effect in stifling a public undertaking. For, on entering into the details, an unexpected difficulty arises in providing funds for the increased expenditure, and also raises a suspicion that there is something unsound in the whole fabric, when a defect has been detected in a particular part. By taking a survey of the whole expenditure at first, we are prepared to arrange our plans on an enlarged basis. But though I have shown, that in the execution of this plan, an annual expense would be incurred, much heavier than was at first alleged; this should not prevent its being attended to. We see sums of ten times the amount annually spent either on subsidizing foreign princes, to fight their own battles as long as it suits their interest or convenience, or in sending out ineffectual military expeditions. Were the expenses of educating our infant population equal to those incurred by sending 30,000 men on a three month's ramble through the south of Europe, it is still to be considered, that in the former case, the money advanced by the people is spent in the country, and therefore reverts by other channels to the source whence it originally sprung; while in the latter it is not only lost to us, but serves to augment the resources of our enemies. Besides, a fund already presents itself for supplying a great part

of the sum to be annually raised. Were this scheme to be put in execution, the charter-schools would be useless. The great revenue accruing thence presents itself immediately to be applied to a more beneficial, because a more national and unprejudiced purpose. I am not prepared to state the amount of the revenues of these schools, but from a calculation of their probable expenses a very fair conjecture may be formed, as it is well known, that these are much within the revenues. The average of children in each of the thirty-two charter-schools, is 60, making a total of 1,920. The expenses of feeding and clothing those cannot be estimated at less than 10*l.* each, annually. The salaries of masters, mistresses, and ushers at each school must be 50*l.* and the repairs and incidental expenses of the large buildings in which the schools are kept, may be fairly reckoned at 20*l.* more. The account then will stand thus :

Feeding and clothing the children	19,200
Masters, &c. in 32 schools	750
Incidental expenses	640
	<hr/>
	£20,590

Besides the schools here enumerated, there are four provincial nurseries, and two private establishments, under the management of the Governors of the Incorporated Society; the expenses of which, added to the above, may be supposed to raise it to 30,000*l.* annually. Hence, therefore, if the charter-schools, the benefits of which even at present are not adequate to their expenses, and which would, in case of the substitution of parochial schools, be useless, were abolished, the sum arising from them would more than defray the additional expenses of the national system, and verify the words of its author, 'that its establishment would not require more than 120,000*l.* per annum additional to be added to the public burdens.'

I shall now proceed to take a view of the internal regulations. The first that occurs relates to the masters; they are allowed ten guineas for the education of ten free scholars, and as the number of their pupils is confined to thirty, they have besides this the profits

of twenty-six pupils, which being estimated at 1*l.* probably the very highest average would make their annual income about 36*l.* This is but a small compensation for a very laborious, and in some degree unhealthy occupation. However it may be augmented in some degree. The number of their pupils is limited to thirty-six, and very probably it is sufficient for one man. In the charter-schools, attention is paid to procure married men, whose wives may be capable of performing some part of the duty. Were the same plan adopted here, the best effects would be produced. A married man is bound by stronger ties to good conduct and regularity. He has an additional motive for exertion. His wife, by taking part in the office of instructing, as is done in every country town with the younger part of the children, who are always, and probably most advantageously placed under the care of females, will enable him to receive a larger number, say ten more, and thus augment his income proportionably. To these we may add, that when such an opportunity is held out for young women to reap a certain benefit from their education, it will be a new stimulus to application, marriage will be encouraged by the prospect of finding a wife an assistant, instead of an incumbrance, and the additional number thus educated, amounting to nearly 200,000, will, without any additional expense to the nation, provide the means of educating the greatest part of the surplus, which, as I proved in the beginning of this paper, would otherwise remain uneducated, if we suppose that females are to participate in the benefits of the system.

The course of education naturally presenting itself, consists of reading, writing, and accounts. As to the Christian duties, I doubt very much whether the teachers can be expected to possess the necessary qualifications for being impartial expounders of the sacred volume. Let the Scriptures, or select parts of them be read, and let the masters set the example, and enforce the observance of the great practical duties of Christianity, and they have done enough. The doctrine is best entrusted to the spiritual teachers already existing; who are well paid

for this neglected part of their duty. In every parish in the kingdom there is (or ought to be) at least two resident clergymen, a Protestant and a Catholic; in most of the Northern districts, which in general are the most populous, there are three. These, if they have the inclination, are fully adequate to the duty.

The controlling powers appear to be well arranged and to arise from the lower to the higher degrees in a very regular order. The theory looks well, but I fear for the practice. Let us examine each of them separately. The first or more immediate is the parochial committee, to consist of the clergymen of the parish, together with six others chosen at vestry. Let us judge of what will be, by what is. In the charter schools, which I look upon as the best precedents to imitate in some points and to deviate from in others, a similar inspecting power is vested in a local committee appointed by the society and consisting of some of the respectable persons, residents in the neighbourhood, and generally, if not always the clergymen of the adjoining parishes. Yet it is well known that several of the charter schools exhibit the most glaring marks of negligence and internal mismanagement. Nor is this to be attributed to inattention in the governors. They are not only willing to hear, but anxious to receive information; reports are regularly sent up signed by one or more of the local committee. Whence then can it originate? I will tell what came almost under my own personal knowledge. One of the country charter houses was entrusted to a master and mistress, who so far from being possessed of any of the qualities requisite for such a place, would scarcely have been admitted as menial servants into a respectable family. They were idle, vicious, and drunken. Their misconduct at length reached the ears of the governors. The master became alarmed; and in order to silence the unfavourable reports which had reached his superiors, and secure himself in his place he applied to the local committee, several of whom signed a certificate in testimony of his good conduct and attention to the morals, improvement, and health of the

children. Yet so notorious was his character that in spite of this testimonial he was displaced. I mention this to prove the little reliance to be placed on the spirit or exertions of those who are not incited by their private interest. Another instance will prove that indolence and apathy to what does not immediately come home to self is an obstacle equally general and as difficult to be removed. When it was proposed to publish statistical accounts of the several counties of Ireland, a work which could only be brought to perfection by the concurrent exertions of every intelligent man throughout the kingdom, and which, if properly executed, would ultimately benefit the country gentlemen and farmers most essentially, several of the persons who undertook this laborious and novel work wrote circular letters to all the respectable persons through the country, proposing questions relative to its natural and agricultural state, and we are informed by the writers themselves, that these applications were totally neglected. Perhaps, however, in the present instance, the election at vestry may have better effect. The choice will fall on the respectable farmers, who, living in a state of independence, produced by labour, possess at least nine tenths of the real public spirit of the country; such men as these being as it were the representatives of their neighbours, to whom they will feel themselves responsible at the rigid bar of public opinion, may be unaffected by the passions that instigate the more affluent, and what are falsely called the more independent classes.

The county visitors come next to be considered. Their duty, if properly executed, is very weighty, and attended with a high degree of responsibility. I have already shown that they have the superintendence of three hundred schools. If they visit four of these every day, which would be enough, probably too much for one man to do with proper minuteness, they will be able to go round the county but three times in a year. But it may be said that they are intended rather to controul the local committees, than to inspect minutely into the schools. To this I answer, if so, (their appointment is

nugatory. They cannot know the relative situations of the schools and committees, unless they examine the schools. It must also be recollected that the committees being voluntary agents, will not submit to the absolute controul of persons nominated and paid by the higher powers. With them, the powers of the visitor can extend no farther than to recommend and advise: with the schoolmasters, their duty is to examine and report. It will be found that this process of examination and reporting, together with the listening to the reports of the local committees, investigating their correctness, and applying remedies to petty abuses and mistakes, which could not come before the supreme committee, will be as much as any one man of good sense, sound constitution, and great perseverance can possibly effect. The salary, also, as I have already hinted, is insufficient. If a man of education and abilities devotes his whole time to one object, he must be paid in proportion; and it must be observed that a fixed salary, as it precludes the hope of increase, ought to be greater than that which varies with the merits of the person employed. The visitor must also be provided with a horse, and pass most of his time at inns, which besides the great expense, will entail the necessity of a double establishment, if he has a family. A brigade major of yeomanry is allowed a guinea a day, yet he remains nearly one half of his time at home, which, however, is fully occupied in making up his returns, and while on his progress, is at little expense, as he is always a guest at some of those gentlemen's houses, whose corps come under his inspection. The county visitor has a much more tedious and constant employment, and cannot hope for the same kind of reception at his different stages. I am not a friend to the too liberal expenditure of public money, but, at the same time, am clearly of opinion, that to have the public business well done, the public servants must be well paid. I would therefore propose that the county should be divided into two districts, over each of which a visitor should be appointed; also, that their salaries should be not less than 300*l.* subject, how-

ever to the regulation mentioned by the writer as to the masters, that the supreme committee should have the power of diminishing this in case of inattention or misconduct, and making a fund of the balance thus formed for the reward of superior exertions. The usual method of treating public functionaries, has always appeared to me to be very exceptionable. There is no gradation either of rewards or punishments. Superior talent or exertion meets with no extraordinary recompense; and the only punishment for all offences is deprivation. In the former case, emulation is extinguished, the latter counteracts itself. In most cases of delinquency, the punishment appears excessive; justice, compassion, friendship, and in many cases interest, prevent its taking effect. Thus, what once was crime, degenerates into custom, and the public affairs decline from bad to worse, without any remedy against the ever increasing abuses which can every day advance a stronger plea of accumulating precedents in their favour.

The last point to be considered is the supreme committee. Two reasons seem to have influenced the proposer of this plan to lodge the ultimate controul in the hands of the heads of the clergy of the three leading persuasions, to prevent the preponderancy of any one sect, and to take the patronage out of the hands of the ministry. With respect to the first of these, the weight of influence seems to be very unequally divided. The Protestant bishop, who constitutes apparently but a third part of this triumvirate would carry along with him all the influence of the ministry and established clergy; while the Moderator of the Synod being changed every year, and possessing no influence but what derives to him from his temporary ecclesiastical character, could never cope in case of a difference of opinion with his permanent authorised coadjutor. This junction, instead of producing the harmony of an engine, whose parts were equally balanced, would resemble the attraction of the sun, earth and moon, in which the one would assume the centre, and sit quietly at his ease, while he forced the other two to revolve in the orbits which he had tracked out for them. As

to the attempt to exclude the interference of the ministry, or to remove the system one step farther from its immediate influence, by the intervention of the supreme triumvirate (I agree with the writer, notwithstanding) we may both in consequence of the opinion be suspected of improper motives, that it is a consummation devoutly to be wished. I know that it is an acknowledged principle, that education is a national concern, and therefore should be under the regulation of the government. If by the government be meant the *legislature*, consisting of the KING, the NOBILITY, and the PEOPLE *fairly and fully represented by delegates chosen really by themselves*, I heartily acquiesce in the justice of the maxim: but if this word is meant to express the persons delegated by the king to do his business in the house of commons, the ministers of the day, I confess I see little good likely to result from a scheme, the supreme controul of which is guided by such a fluctuating ephemeral regulator. I see nothing but a new system of new places, pensions, sinecures and influence, extending its ramifications from a triple stem, into every hamlet and cottage in the empire.

The part of the plan relating to the supreme committee or triumvirate seems strongly liable to objection on the grounds just stated.—But though it is far from meeting my approbation, I know of nothing to be substituted in its stead. What I have said, however, not only concerning this branch, but the whole plan, may attract greater attention towards it; if so, it will be found not to be the fanciful theory which I believe it is at present thought.—The rudiments of an excellent system lie involved in it: but much care, and time, and perseverance would be requisite for their extrication. Lancaster has turned the minds of every economical philosopher to the subject of general education. The assertion I am about to make will be deemed a paradox, yet I will not hesitate to declare it. The plan now proposed, or something like it will be found much more practicable, and generally beneficial, than that which has justly been the subject of so much

praise and imitation. To carry the one into effect, the abilities of the founder of the system are requisite in every master; in the other ordinary capacity is sufficient: it will be much easier to find 8000 schoolmasters of the latter kind than 80 of the former.

The subject could be dwelt on with much advantage, and many useful hints been drawn from it, for private persons or single parishes to put in practice on a smaller scale, but, I fear, will never be heartily undertaken by the military financial politicians of the present day, the main object of whose administration seems to be to raise money to carry on war, and to carry on war to raise money.

Wishing every success to a scheme for the improvement of my countrymen, I remain, sir, yours,

QUINCTIUS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE EARLY PLANTING OF POTATOES.

I OBSERVE two of your Correspondents who have written on this subject, have not yet agreed in the accuracy of the statement of expense in the two modes, of the lazy-bed and drill culture. It is not my intention to interfere in this part of the discussion, but I may be allowed to remark that I entirely agree with the assertion of William Gooch, that the lazy bed culture is often preferable, when the palate, and I add the quality as wholesome food are consulted.

But my motive for writing at present is principally to recommend the planting of potatoes in either mode at an early period of the season. Potatoes planted at a late period are seldom as firm and good as those planted more early: and yet the practice of late setting has for several years been gradually increasing. Quality is thus sacrificed to quantity. To those who raise potatoes for their own use, little reasoning is necessary to show that the calculation is a mistaken one, as potatoes of an inferior quality are not profitable, but occasion great waste in the use of them, by the worst of them being thrown

aside, when they are brought to the table. They who raise potatoes for market are less careful in this respect, and look more to the quantity in the scale or the bushel. Farmers sometimes allege that they must necessarily be late in the potatoe culture by reason of their other spring labour not being completed; but probably the procrastination may often be attributed to the wish to procure an increased quantity.

If such a practice of increasing the quantity at the expense of the quality were weighed in the scales of *conscience*, it would be found not to stand the test. Thus every proper motive of sound policy, and of honesty, and humanity, is in favour of early setting. I mean by early setting, potatoes planted through the month of April, but farthest not to exceed the middle of May. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

THE REMONSTRANCE.

A FREE People, possessed of reason and feeling, will complain of public grievances, so long as they are continued; and will pursue prudent legal means of redress. Nor should they, on this account, be branded with the opprobrious epithet of disaffected, or stigmatized as incendiaries. Those who sincerely endeavour to destroy corruption and promote reformation amongst men, are the friends of good order and well established government, and such only as truly serve to be accounted loyal. They are the pillars of states. It is their zeal to increase and perpetuate the power and prosperity of that realm, of which they form a part, that urges them to wield their tongues and pens in combating bad administration, and struggling for extermination of corruption. Since the days of William the third, royal statutes have been represented as infringement on the natural rights of a large portion of the population of the British empire. Since the incorporation of churches and states, the civil establishment of religion, as, either in their principle, or in their mode of exaction, have been indicted as national evils. On these

hackneyed topics little now remains to be said.

So long as tithes bear unequally upon the community, where no species of equivalent is received for them; while their quantum is considered to be at the disposal of unfeeling proctors, and ever variable and augmenting in proportion to increased industry, so as to be a heavy *embargo* on so important an object as agriculture; so long as they harrow the feelings of those who are yearly goaded to a conscious sensibility of the evils attending upon the corrupt mode of their imposition and collection, they will ever be a bone of contention between the tithe-farmer and the peasant, the seeds of alienation of affection, between the laity and the clergy, a stumbling block in the way of the progress of religion, and a temptation to disaffection in the subject to his ruler.

As to Catholic claims, reason and justice demand, that all those who live quiet and peaceable lives, who are amenable to the laws, and support the state in person and property, should have an equal and common share in whatever civil privileges their situation and circumstances require. The truth and force of this proposition may be granted, and yet the continuance of disabilities deemed expedient as a measure of policy. That policy, however, which is incompatible with equity and reason, is ignoble, dangerous and immoral. The welfare or security of a state, cannot be supposed to involve in it the destruction of natural rights. Nor can reasons of state supersede the law of equity. A right is not fairly withheld upon the surmise of the claimant's future abuse of it. A wholesome law deprives no man of privileges, until by his misconduct he has forfeited them. Fears may be entertained of promoting Catholic subjects to high and important stations and trusts in the legislative and executive departments of the state; but why entertained respecting them and not others, or more than others, is not easy to imagine! Men of different and opposite sentiments in the theory of religion will be found to have natural principles of honour, integrity, and faithfulness, and also to want all these. Subjects of the best and the worst states, who have made

the most plausible pretensions to loyalty and patriotism, members of the purest and most corrupt churches, who have made the most ostentatious parade of sanctity, have, on the day of trial proved traitors and villains. Men of all religious persuasions are naturally alike, and possess what, perhaps, we might call instinctive principles of honesty or deception, of cowardice or bravery. While we are far from the partial advocates for Catholicism, it may be asserted as a fact of unquestionable notoriety, that in the modern annals of the British empire, Protestant commanders, appointed to chief places of trust, have betrayed the momentous causes committed to them, through pusillanimity or corruption, and have been virtually or literally cashiered; while multitudes of Catholics, in different quarters of the world, have, with the heroism of free-born Irishmen, and Britons, fought, bled, and died for their king and their country.

The argument contained in the above reasoning is not invalidated by granting, that the history of other times may furnish ground for reversing the above assertion. There were times when religion, or rather bigotry and persecution entered into the politics of nations. Whoever then were in power, the advocates for this or that creed, lorded over the rights and conscience of those who differed from them in opinion. But those times have passed away, and the persecuting tenets and practices which then existed, should also be allowed to die; not to give place to infidelity and libertinism, to disaffection or republican phrenzy, under the specious names of liberal sentiments and natural rights; but that religion and liberty, properly so called, comprehending, "Peace on earth, and good will towards men," including, "righteousness, peace and joy," might for ever reign. The afflictions issuing from penal laws, have partly disappeared; liberties and privileges have been partially granted, and no alarming evils have ensued. Why then dread the consequences of perfecting that, which in its progress hath been hitherto productive of general good and of no mischief.

In the mean time, the assumption of a dictatorial air, language inflamma-

tory to the people, or menacing to "the powers that be," ill suit the character of Petitioners, and so far as such appear, go to prove them unripe for a full redress. No exaggerated or heightened picture of slavery and woe should be drawn, as if the Catholics of the united kingdom were groaning under the galling shackles of bondage, or pining in misery; or, as if those rulers were tyrannical, who would not, in a day, gratify all their wishes. The great body of that people, in their cottages, live as others, enjoying the food and the raiment of their native soil, sensible of few national evils, but such as are common to them and their neighbours, knowing little and caring little about memorials to Parliament, on the important question of Catholic emancipation. In this situation, however, their remaining disabilities and grievances, should not the less powerfully plead for them.

Whatever tends to damp the spirit of the farmer, to keep him in a state of venal dependance and crouching vassalage, materially injures the commonwealth. Of such tendency are the present customary practices of too many gentlemen, who possess the landed property of the country. Lands are rented at a very high rate. Their price is calculated not from their intrinsic or present value; but from what commerce and improving manufactures may possibly be able one day to effect; from speculations upon the future increasing population of the country, and probable advance in the price of lands, founded upon the experience of late years, short leases, or none are given. The tenant is jealous of expending what little property he possesses in any radical or valuable improvements upon a precarious tenure. The high rent yearly drains from him that little capital which he has scraped together by daily toil, and deprive him of the means of manuring and cultivating his farm, so as to turn it to the best advantage for his own and the public good.

Men of great fortune seldom reside amongst their tenantry; when they do they live at a lordly distance from them, know little of their wants and difficulties, the toils and privations to which they must patiently submit, to supple-

rising families, and furnish the stipulated rent at the appointed term. Stipulated by exorbitant demands and absolute conditions on the part of the lessor, and constrained acceptance and engagement on the part of the lessee. We say constrained, because such is the effectual check given to emigration, the difficulty of removing families from place to place; such the rapidly increasing population, the necessity of an additional habitation to every new family, such the number of bidders, who cannot conveniently take a stone for a pillow, or the canopy of heaven for a covering, that landlords may, in the disposal of their lands, clog them with what mulcts, covenants, and forfeitures they please, in addition to whatever rent the pride of unlimited affluence, and the love of money may prescribe. The ancient custom in the letting of land, of tendering to the owners an acreable value, is reduced to a farce. The whole construction and completion of the stipulation is in the power and at the mercy of the lords of the soil. These not unfrequently commit the sole management of their estates to hiring agents, under certain restrictions, who domineer among the people with all the tyranny of an eastern despot. To rents and permits, to changes and uncertainties therein, exclusive of just rents, land-holders are oft subjected from year to year, in obtaining the necessary and comfortable accommodations of fuel. Planting is an improvement of singular benefit to the nation, and what in time would prove one of the country's finest ornaments. Clumps of trees, skirting the hills and the vales, assist in forming the beautiful landscape, and shelter the crops and mansion of the farmer from the piercing and destructive blast. Timber is an essential requisite of architecture and husbandry, two of the chief sources of the wealth of nations, the employments and characteristic features of civilized society. But where strict prohibitions and severe penalties prevent men from using, for the needful purposes of building and agriculture, even a twig of timber, the produce of their own farms, and fruit of their own labour, there planting will be effectually prevented, and all its ornamental and beneficial con-

sequences for ever lost to posterity. To all the great, the above observations do not apply. Let those, to whom they do, be humbly entreated to descend from the pinnacle of their grandeur, and deign to cultivate an acquaintance with the peasantry, who are seated far below them, to ameliorate their condition. When they view their homely rare and russet raiment, the very humble structure and plain furniture of their cabins, the glimmering taper and scanty ingle, which afford them light and warmth, the labour and fatigues, the inclemency of the seasons, the crosses, to which they are exposed, in drudging early and late through the deluging rains and pitiless storms of winter, or sweating under the scorching beams of the summer sun; while they are struggling to answer the landlord's demands, and preserve their little flocks from the merciless cudgel of the bailiff, or the miseries of a pound. A small diminution in the expense of fashionable amusements, of costly apparel and sumptuous tables, of horses and dogs, of livery servants and splendid equipage, would make a great amendment upon the wordly circumstances and comforts of a straitened tenantry. The cost of one grand dinner would raise a townland from indigence to wealth; the superfluous decorations for attending the theatre, or the court levee, would comfortably clothe a thousand naked children; the price of a single diamond would enrich a parish; the prodigal expenditure of one night in the jovial club, or at the gambling board, would place the tenants of an estate in easy circumstances. But suppose it is not ambition or prodigality, but avarice, that induces the squire or the lord to increase his rental more than he ought; how cruel would it be to sacrifice the comforts of thousands to gratify the cravings of one sordid appetite? But here, though much might be said, it is vain to descant. All the embarrassments of man, nay, all the aggregate mass of human woes, could they be painted in the most striking colours, would plead, with feeble force, against the "love of money, which is the root of all evil."

In the nature of things, and for the well-being of society, there must be
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superiors and inferiors, high and low, yet they merit not the name of levellers, who would argue for the equality of all men in some things. No man, however low, should be trampled upon, or his spirit wounded. The generous superior, will not grate the feelings of such, or sadden his soul by repeatedly impressing him with a sense of his power over him, or exercising it to his injury. It is the duty and honour of the great to endeavour to make men in low stations sit as light and easy as possible. The lower orders of society are the foundation upon which the higher are built. To disturb the foundation is to procure the ruin of the building.

If nature recoils against being driven, let it be led and allured. Harsh measures, continued or increased, will naturally make deeper impressions upon the suffering soul, and procure more embittered complainings, and might endanger the peace and stability of the empire, should they ever approximate to that oppression which makes a wise man mad.

Would superiors, by mildness and moderation, by reformation of abuses, by the pure administration of our glorious constitution, secure the affections of the multitude, and promote union and love amongst all ranks, they would establish a more effectual barrier against the encroachments of tyrants, and the desolating power of French usurpation, than even the wooden walls of old England, or the insular situation of the British dominions. S. E.

Ballinahinch.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
THE avowed intention of your useful miscellany being the improvement of the minds and morals of your countrymen, I beg leave through its medium to call the attention of your Readers to a subject which demands their most serious consideration.

At this time of dearth of provisions, and want of employment for the working people, the private distillation of whiskey, is carried on to such an extent as to be truly alarming to every real friend to Ireland.

I am extremely sorry, that the

subject has escaped the notice of those who are much abler to discuss it than I am—but I hope from a few hints I shall throw out, some more competent hand may be induced to take it up; and I entertain no doubt, but that when the practice is shown in its true colours it will then appear to be fraught with so many evils to the community, that every rational man will lend his assistance for the suppression of a trade as injurious to the real interests, as it is destructive to the morals, of a large share of the population of the country.

The illicit distiller, that he may conciliate his neighbours, and purchase their connivance and secrecy, is obliged to treat them most profusely with his whiskey; and he hands it about amongst them, with a liberality which procures for him the character of an honest-hearted, worthy fellow, with whom there is no harm, but that he is striving to make a livelihood by humbugging the guager, who is allowed to be one of society's greatest pests. By this means a system of drunkenness and debauchery, is introduced among the farmers, who when doing their duty are the most useful class of men in society.

Unhappily it is too much the disposition of those men to suppose there can be no harm in getting drunk, provided they spend no money; never once reflecting, that the expense of spirits, is but a small part of the real injury sustained by the inordinate use of them: loss of time when drinking, rendering themselves incapable of business after it; loss of health, and the bad example to their children; these are serious injuries indeed, whether viewed in a physical or moral point.

The education of their children (this prime duty of man) is not only neglected, but they are so familiarized to scenes of riot and debauchery, as almost naturally, to fall into the same dissipated habits with their unhappy parents; they hear dreadful vengeance vowed against the guager, and his assistants, in their presence, the question is perhaps often discussed whether it is not highly praiseworthy to shoot a guager in defence of

smuggled whiskey; when the decision is always in the affirmative. They are taught to believe, that the revenue laws are a system of oppression, and that it is therefore just to resist them; and the conclusion drawn is, that if one law is bad and oppressive, others may be considered in the same light, and thus from step to step they go on in moral depravity, and attain to a degree of ferocity which renders them fitter associates for the tyger in the forest, than members of a civilized society.

When an exciseman visits a neighbourhood of this description, on the business of still-hunting, as it is called, the whole posse turn out against him, nothing intimidated by the soldiers with whom he is accompanied; not only the persons immediately concerned with the business, but the whole population of the neighbourhood opposes him in battle array. A serious conflict ensues; sometimes the gauger succeeds, and sometimes the smuggler is victorious, but seldom, very seldom indeed, an affray of this kind ends but with the loss of the lives or limbs of some of the parties; then follow trials at assizes, where witness is marshalled against witness, in the court-house, as they were in the field of battle; perjuries and prevarications are committed; the gauger if alive prosecutes with rancour; the smuggler defends himself by the perjuries of his friends; and the trial ends in the conviction of some of these deluded wretches, who terminate their miserable existence at the gallows.

Such has been the state of the country for a length of time; a kind of predatory war is waged in the bosom of our country, wherein the gauger and the smuggler are the belligerents; and the cruelties practised by each on the other, are apologized for, by the one in doing the duties of his office; and by the other in defending his property.

And unfortunately the parties being so familiarized with scenes of blood, that the moral character is totally changed, and from being peaceable and quiet citizens, they become so sanguinary and ferocious as to be dangerous men in society.

Some time ago when government had it in contemplation to permit distillation from grain; many were alarmed, that such a measure would be productive of famine; and public meetings were held for the purpose of petitioning against it; parliament lent an attentive ear to the representations made in those petitions, and the restrictions were continued, which restrictions operate in a directly opposite way to that intended; the markets for grain being ever since more scarce than before. When the measure was under discussion, grain rose a little in price, in consequence of speculation, but the markets were well supplied; but as soon as it was found that the distilleries would not be allowed to work, the grain disappeared, and though it fell a little in price, it did not fall in the ratio that was expected.

The reason of this to me is obvious, the smuggler dare not go to a public market to purchase grain, lest he should raise suspicion; but he travels the country round, and purchases at the house of the farmer; pays him his price, and conveys it away free of expense to him, by which means, in markets that have been well supplied, scarce three sacks of grain are to be seen on a market day.

The restrictions on licensed stills will therefore avail little, provided the private ones are suffered to work; and since the prohibition has been confirmed, they have gone on with redoubled vigour. I have good reason to believe, that more grain is now consumed by the private distilleries, than all the licensed stills would consume were they double the number, and at full work; for, allowing that they produce no more whiskey, they will use more grain. The smuggler from ignorance and the hurry with which he performs his operations, consumes more grain than the licensed distiller, who has a scientific knowledge of his business, and works on a regular plan. In this case the restrictions on the legal distilleries giving encouragement to the smuggler is not only useless but prejudicial, inasmuch as it induces a greater consumption of grain.

It is astonishing how narrow and

confined are the views of man. The merchant who buys grain for exportation, meets the execrations of the working people; if he loads a vessel with grain or oatmeal, a mob can soon be collected, to strip her of her sails, and prevent her sailing, though the exportation of grain or meal, instead of being a disadvantage to the country, is one of its greatest benefits. Grain used in distillation is lost to the whole human race; grain exported goes to feed our fellow creatures. Grain used in distillation debauches the farmer, blunts his faculties and casts a damp upon his industry; grain exported, encourages the farmer to improve his land and rewards his industry. Grain consumed in distillation, encourages us to misapply our riches and leaves for our inheritance poverty and broken constitutions alone; but grain exported brings the riches of other countries into our own; it enriches the merchant, who, by giving employment to the manufacturer, is serviceable to the very persons who so loudly complain against the trade. In short, so long as we have one uncultivated cultivable acre of land in the country, the exportation of grain should be encouraged; and so long as we wish to preserve health of body or peace of mind, distillation should be discouraged; every encouragement should be held out to the farmer, to induce him to improve his land; and if possible to make one acre produce as much this year, as two acres produced last year; for the interest of every man in the community, is identified with that of the farmer; for in proportion, as he is successful the necessaries of life are dear or cheap, plenty or scarce; and in proportion as he is enriched, the rest of the people are enriched; he enriches the merchant, the manufacturer, and the country gentleman.

It is a most lamentable sight to contemplate one of those meal mobs, who violate every principle and every duty they owe to themselves, and to society, by madly attempting what constantly produces the very effect which they wish to prevent; how different would be the conclusion, were that energy they use in a riotous

manner to prevent exportation of meal, directed in a legal constitutional way, in support of the civil magistrate, for the suppression of private stills? very different indeed, instead of the actors risking their necks, they would deserve the praise and the thanks of every good man, and would do more towards reducing the price of provisions, than if they were to burn every ship, in which meal would be attempted to be exported.

At some of the public meetings which have been held, for the purpose of petitioning parliament to continue the restrictions on distillation from grain, by the opposers of the measure, the bad consequences of private distilling have been hinted at, but by no means gone into, to that extent which the subject required; no pains were taken to obtain that information, whereby the public might be guided; and being mere assertions, without the shadow of proof to support them, the argument fell to the ground; when it is probable had the following, or a similar statement been laid before them, the conclusion would have been otherwise.

The licensed stills in Ireland, when at work, yield a revenue of about 1,200,000l per annum; for the supply of those stills, a quantity of grain, amounting to 3,500 barrels daily, would be required. On the north-west circuit of Ulster, last asses, fines were levied off five counties, amounting to 31,200l. for illicit stills found in them; the fine for each still being 50l. it would appear that in those five counties, 624 stills had been seized; now, allowing that the remaining four counties of this province contained no more than a proportion of that number, not taking into view the many stills, which no doubt remain undetected, 1,143 stills have, been employed in this province alone; taking these at an average of 50 gallons each, and allowing, from interruptions, that they will only use five barrels of grain in a day each, a quantity of grain for their daily supply will be required, amounting to 5,715 barrels, which is 2,215 barrels per day more than would be required for the whole of the licensed stills in the kingdom. Here we have, in one province alone, a consumption of grain by private stills, far

exceeding what would keep all the regular stills in the kingdom at work, and a revenue of 1,200,000*l.* lost to the country.

In this statement, the quantity of grain is far under-rated, as is the number of stills in the province; nor is any value laid on the grains and wash, destroyed by the smugglers, by burying them under ground, and swimming them away in rivers; this loss is not by any means inconsiderable, as the appearance of our fleshmarket evinces.

Some short sighted persons, considering that the country is overburthened with taxes, make no account of defrauding the revenue; but let such persons reflect, that government must and will be supported; that if one tax is not sufficient, ano*ther* will be laid on. If the excise does not produce enough, the hearth and window tax must make up the deficiency—and let such people also reflect, that in consuming whiskey illegally distilled, they are paying the full amount of the tax, not into the hands of government, but into the hands of the distillers of, and dealers in contraband whiskey; and thus they subject themselves voluntarily to the payment of a tax, which they blame the government for imposing.

In taverns, where smokey whiskey is sold, as much is charged for it as for old Antigua rum; and if we purchase it by the gallon, we will pay from two to three shillings more for it than for the whiskey that has paid the excise duty—but then we are told, it is good *cut whiskey, real peat reek, or right good pot-yeen*. Thus we pay a heavier tax, than that upon spirits regularly imported or distilled, and not one farthing of this tax reaches the coffers of the state, but goes into the purses of those dealing in the article. From all these circumstances, I hope, Mr. Editor, it will appear evident, that it is as much the interest as it is the duty of every good citizen, to use all his endeavours to discourage and suppress this practice, so destructive to the morals of thousands, and so contrary to the real interests of the community at large.

I have often regretted to find the land proprietors come in for a large share of blame, in conniving at this

nefarious trade; having frequently heard it roundly asserted, that if they thought proper they could put a final end to it; I hope, however, for the honour of human nature, such insinuations have been groundless, and that the enlightened country gentlemen of Ireland are far from being deserving of such aspersions.

Convinced I am, that no class of men in the empire, are possessed of more loyalty, can boast a nicer sense of honour; nor would go further to protect or support our glorious constitution in church and state. Under this conviction, it is repugnant to my feelings to suppose that such men, for the paltry consideration of receiving a higher rent for their lands, would connive at a trade destructive to the revenue of the country, ruinous to the morals of their tenantry, and contrary to the true interests of the nation.

I am, however, well aware, that no class of men have more in their power as to the suppression of this abominable and ruinous trade; their influence as landlords, and the power of many, as magistrates, give them opportunities of discouraging and suppressing it, not within the reach of any other class of his Majesty's subjects—and at no time, nor on any occasion were they ever more imperiously called on to exert themselves—their own honour, the welfare and prosperity of the tenantry, and the general interest of the country demand it of them. Let them personally examine the premises of their tenantry—let them remonstrate with them—let them threaten them; and provided this has not the proper effect, let them punish them with the utmost rigour of the law.

I would also recommend it to the clergy of all persuasions, to interest themselves on this subject. If the true interest of morality is an object with them, let them reason with their flocks, both in and out of the pulpit—with those concerned in the trade, and those not concerned—point out to the one party the injury they are doing to society by carrying on such a trade—and to the other party, by encouraging it, or in not using their endeavours to suppress it.

I would also recommend parochial meetings and associations, to institute inquiries, and enter into resolutions to

discourage and suppress it all in their power.

I have heard it suggested, that government should increase the fines on the parishes where the stills are found, and make it felony to be found working at the business; this is a measure I hope the good sense and spirit of the people will render unnecessary, as our statute book already groans with pains and penalties, and I should be exceedingly sorry to find that my countrymen were so dead to their own interests as to have them increased on this occasion. D.

Belfast, May 12, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE WILD IRISH GIRL, AND IDA OF ATHENS.

THE insertion of a paper addressed to you, which appeared in the last number of the Magazine, induces me to trouble you with some remarks on two of Miss Owenson's novels. I am enthusiastically attached to the Irish character, and to my country, but that attachment does not lead me entirely to overlook the defects of the Irish. I am anxious that our authors should rather study the useful, than the ornamental and showy in their writings. High sounding words, and finely rounded periods may catch the attention of the frivolous, but seldom mislead the judgment of the sensible and well informed. Female writers are frequently met with, and the inferiority of intellect is not now so confidently asserted as formerly. I believe it is entirely our own fault if we are the inferior sex; but our attention being so often turned to trifling and unimportant pursuits, makes us greater trilliers than we ought. Much of our character through life depends on our education in early life; even so late as fifty years ago, females got very little education; but a great improvement has now taken place, and I earnestly and warmly entreat my countrywomen to go on improving, and not to consider that after leaving school our education is finished, but that we may improve every day.

My earnest wishes for the character of my countrywomen, induces me to offer some remarks on the "Wild Irish Girl," which I am confident is not a

true delineation of the Irish character, for I have a better opinion of our countrywomen than to suppose their whole attention is occupied in the manner Glorvina's too generally was. The scene in the boudoir is unworthy of a female pen, and I cannot think highly of the refinement of a mind which was capable of imagining such a scene. In my former paper I mentioned Miss Owenson's heroines being so much attached to coquetry, and as a sample I shall refer to the 2d volume of the Wild Irish Girl, pages 236, 239, and 240, where something of the refinement of coquetry is discovered. Many other passages equally objectionable, are met with in this book. As I am

"Still pleased to praise, yet not afraid to blame:"

I must say there are some excellent descriptions in the Wild Irish Girl. I began to read it with the highest expectations, and was delighted with the half of the first volume, which is excellent. I felt real interest in the story of Murtoch O'Shaughnassey. Miss Owenson seems to have caught some distinguishing traits in the character of the Irish peasantry. Father John is excellent, and she deserves much credit for drawing the character of a benevolent Irish Priest. The description of the castle of Inismore, the Prince, Glorvina, and the old nurse, would be highly interesting to those who are not acquainted with Ireland, or Irish manners, but the tale loses a great deal of its interest when we know that no such castles are now in existence. The furniture of the castle is rather incongruous. If Miss Owenson's motive for writing this book were to reconcile English prejudices, or the prejudices of some of the inhabitants of Ireland, against their Catholic neighbours her motive was laudable and praise-worthy; but why in sketching the character of an Irishwoman need she have made Glorvina a flirt and a coquet? Such I hope is not the distinguishing trait in the character of an Irishwoman. Miss Edgeworth's tales have a simplicity that Miss Owenson's writings do not possess. Miss Edgeworth's Moral and Popular Tales may be read with advantage by persons of all ages. Her sentiments are so excellent, and moral, that she must always be considered as honour to her sex.

To show that indiscriminate censure not my aim, as well as to inculcate useful and much needed lesson, shall conclude this little sketch of : Wild Irish girl, by a few lines the excellent advice of the Earl M—— to his son at the conclusion the 3d volume, when he exhorts as to his conduct to his Irish antry and dependents, the sentiments cannot be too often repeated.

"Remember that you are not plucky despotic, over a band of slaves, atures of the soil, and as such to considered; but by Providence over certain portion of men, who, in common with the rest of their nation, are descendants of a brave, a free, an enlightened people. Be more cautious to remove the *causes*, than to wish *effects*, for trust me, that is ly to

"Scotch the snake—not kill it;"

confine error, and awaken vengeance. Be cautious how you condemn, more cautious how you deride, be ever watchful to moderate that ent impetuosity which flows from natural tone of the national character which is the inseparable accompaniment of quick and acute feelings, which is the invariable concomitant of constitutional sensibility; and remember that the same ardour of disposition, same vehemence of soul, which ames their errors beyond the line of moderate failing, nurtures their better lities beyond the growth of moderate ellence."

Miss Owenson deserves the highest ise for the patriotism, which is perable in all her writings; it is delineation of the female character which I object.

Ida is written even in a more affect-manner than the Wild Irish Girl, it has been so well reviewed in Magazine, that I shall only men-as a sample of Ida's coquetry; n Osmyn was standing under the low she heard him, and not wishing t him know she perceived him, and to discover to him that she was he chamber, she placed the tri-in the middle of the floor, and ed between the lamp and the low, so that her shadow might be on the ground where Osmyn was."

Is not this *studied finesse*? Miss Owenson's admirers may say I am severe, I trust I am not unjustly so. All have an undoubted right to think for themselves, and I always wish to have an independent judgment.

A LOVER OF SIMPLICITY OF CHARACTER.

For the *Belfast Magazine*.

ON SELF-POSSESSION.

"He who ruleth his own spirit, is better than he who taketh a city."

SOLOMON.

IT is lamentable to consider, that many eminent commanders, who have conquered large provinces and countries, have not been able to conquer themselves. Alexander the Great, is an awful instance of this, who, after all his conquests, wept, because his ambition could be no longer gratified. The greatest philosophers have appeared destitute likewise of self-government at the approach of death, though in the course of their lives they evinced great heroism. Whereas it is the nature of self-possession to rise superior to every discouragement in life and death. Examples have occurred, of those who have acted from this principle, more especially in the early ages of the church; who, under the most excruciating torments, have betrayed no marks of impatience, whilst they sealed the truth with their lives. Even before the knowledge of Christianity, eminent men arose, who in general appeared to have the mastery over their own passions. Job was an instance of this virtue, who, amidst the complicated loss of children and property, exclaimed, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away." Another pious character said, "I was dumb, and opened not my mouth, for it was thy doing."

Some, no doubt, have naturally more command of themselves; their tempers have been cast in a better mould, so that they pass through life almost unruffled. Whatever events happen, they treat them as a matter of indifference, whereas others not only feel the smallest trifles, but show a spirit of resentment; like the sensitive plant, they feel the least touch, and shrink from the cause of their misery. This, may be attributed to the weakness of

their nervous system; illness may have occasioned it, and therefore they are far more to be pitied than blamed. Not but self-indulgence is a great evil, and is very much to be guarded against, for it has been the cause of a number of weaknesses incidental to the human frame. Indeed, without self-possession we cannot pass comfortably through this life, as there are numberless events of a trying nature to exercise our patience. And what use is fretting under any calamity: it only makes a bad matter worse; whereas if we bear all our trials with magnanimity, happiness will be the consequence. It may not be amiss, therefore, to urge a few motives to self-possession:

1. By the acquisition of this virtue, every calamity, even death itself, is blunted. We see our dangers, feel our miseries, but nobly rise superior to them; so that we go forward in the pursuit of duty, and attain the plaudit of our own minds, as well as of the world. On this principle soldiers rush into the field of battle, and fall nobly in defence of their country. Examples of this virtue occur in every war undertaken for self-preservation. So that fool-hardiness is different from this conduct; for it invades another country, or runs into danger without a lawful call.

2. The peace of our own minds is a motive sufficient to overbalance every other consideration; and it is impossible to acquire this disposition without self-possession. All sound philosophy has been established upon the mastery of the passions, in opposition to self-indulgence. It must therefore be of the greatest importance to cultivate this disposition, for thereby we ensure to ourselves far greater riches than the possession of all the Indies, even the possession of ourselves, so as not to lose our temper, but enjoy equanimity.

3. Another inducement to this virtue is, the wonderful good effect it has on our health. Many have suffered from unbridled passions, and injured their health essentially. Passion is very dangerous to the constitution, as many have found from bitter experience; whereas those bear their age the best, who in general evidence a meek and quiet temper.

A very remarkable instance of self-possession occurs in the life of Sir Isaac Newton, which may close the present essay: "Sir Isaac Newton was called out of his study on a particular occasion, to an adjoining room. A little dog, named Diamond, happened to be left amongst the papers, and threw down a lighted candle, which consumed the almost finished labours of some years. Sir Isaac soon returned, and had the mortification to behold his irreparable loss. But, with his usual self-possession, he only exclaimed, "Oh, Diamond! Diamond! thou little knowest the mischief thou hast done."

Glanmire, Feb. 4, 1809.

T.M.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ROSA....A MORAL TALE.

Continued from p. 183, No VIII.

MRS. Cleveland saw the consequences of this marriage with pangs, which added acutely to the misery of ill health; and wished most earnestly for Mr. De Clifford's absence, that she might imprint her counsels on the young and inexperienced heart of Rosa. Mr. De Clifford had often wished his wife to consent to accompany him abroad; but Rosa held her promise to Mrs. Cleveland sacred, independent of what she could not, without a degree of ingratitude she was incapable of leaving her benefactress, in her present precarious state of health; and as Mr. De Clifford's bills were now almost exhausted, he shortly, as he had promised, placed her under the protection of Mrs. Cleveland; and with repeated assurances of speedy return, embarked with a fair wind for his native country: Rosa watched the launching of the vessel, with an eye calm and steady; yet her bosom heaved with agony; but when even the last faint echo of the cheers of the mariners ceased; when De Clifford's voice was no longer heard; when form no longer seen; her spirit failed her; a dark foreboding of evil came over her, and she sunk senseless into the arms of an attendant. She had regularly made the most particular inquiries concerning East India arrivals, with the hope of hearing her uncle announced as a passenger by

his hope had as yet met with constant disappointment.

Mrs. Cleveland received her with the sincerest affection; and sensible of the value of the sacrifice she had made, exerted her utmost efforts to make her time pass cheerfully, by encouraging her to go abroad, and procuring agreeable society at home; and Rosa's mind, ever elastic, looked forward with fond hopes, that oftener by their separation, she might on his return, mould De Clifford as she pleased.

But alas! poor Rosa! calamity assailed thee, from a quarter totally unexpected! you knew not the world, or its malice; and that to be young, lively, and ingenuous, and absent from your legal protector, was to be exposed to the malignant shafts of envy, and detraction! Hadst thou been hypocritically prudish! Hadst thou worried about with thee a mockery of seriousness, inconsistent with youth, and its blooming hopes! Hadst thou been sophisticated, and artful, then wouldst thou have been applauded. But as it was—with feelings animated and alive to every trait of genius or singularity, you were too fair an object for the shafts of envenomed persecution. Even the respectable notation of Mrs. Cleveland, was not sufficient to preserve thee from them! Thou knewest nothing, Rosa, of the chicanery of life! thou didst not think it necessary, when thy heart opened to all the glow of social happiness, in pleasing society, to repress its warm energies, and clothe thyself in the gravity of age; nor didst thou in the company of men of sense and genius, think it incumbent on thee, to shut thyself up in uncomfortable silence, merely because Mr. De Clifford was absent; no, sweet Rosa, not such thy cold and hack-nied feelings! and when the praises due to thy playful wit, buzzed around the envious circle, thou wert much too artless to perceive, that the malignant sneer, the side-cast glance, and the damning nod of the head accompanied it!

Mr. De Clifford's singular silence, who had been now above a year absent, without any intelligence arriving from him (though the safe arrival of

the ship had been announced in the public papers) added a yet deeper sting to malevolence; and Rosa first began to perceive it, in the cold and altered manners of her female acquaintance. She was now continually exposed to the most mortifying inquiries.

"Have you not heard from Mr. De Clifford yet?" was the usual question. "Well it certainly is very singular! you are convinced that it is not any fatal event on his side, that occasions his strange silence? but to be sure, poor thing, that can not make you easy! your situation is in every way unpleasant! deserted so young! your conduct ought to be very prudent, for people will take liberties!"

From harangues such as these Rosa generally retreated astonished, indignant, mortified, and by no means perfectly understanding them. But she was not long permitted to remain ignorant of their meaning. A kind friend was found to strike the barbed arrow yet deeper; to let her feel in its fullest extent the wretchedness De Clifford's conduct had inflicted. This friend was Mrs. Lendrick! She it was, who first tore the veil aside, and showed to Rosa her prospect of misery! She it was, who placed the first wound in a heart pure, ingenuous and affectionate! nay! so well did she act her part, that at the moment she poured the poison of misery into her bosom, poor Rosa thought her her sincerest friend.

"To be sure, Mrs. Lendrick felt her afflictions almost as forcibly as if they were her own. She had thought of her more than any one else, her own children excepted, and would if called on, act a sister's part by her. She was convinced of her dear Rosa's innocence! But the world, the world would not allow it; and the world was not to be braved with impunity!"

She then related to the almost heart-broken listener some strictures on her conduct; one half of which we may with justice impute to her own invention (for the detractor will always exaggerate) and when she thought she had brought her to a proper pitch of suffering, she soothed her with tears, and caresses; and Rosa, mistaking Rosa, Uu

left her with a heart warm with gratitude, though sunk in dejection.

The contemptuous neglect of one sex generally brings with it the insults of the other, so that we can hardly be astonished when no middle path is left to the unhappy female, that so many become the unfortunate victims of vice. Rosa had scarcely reached home, ere two letters, each containing the most infamous proposals, were delivered to her, the one from a young man, whose intimacy at Mrs. Cleveland's rendered his insult even more unpardonable; the other from an old gentleman she had met some time back at a party, whose name she had not then heard, but who now introduced himself under the title of Murray. Bitter tears of agony could scarcely be concealed; but unwilling to distress her benefactress with a knowledge of them, she inclosed them in separate blank covers, and sent them to the post-office.

"Oh, Frederick!" she cried in accents of anguish, "to what have you not exposed me! Oh! why, if so careless of the hapless Rosa, did you profane the marriage tie, and by your desertion, brand your wretched wife with infamy?"

Mrs. Cleveland now entered. It was no new thing to see Rosa in tears, and she viewed her unmerited fate in silent compassion. Rosa now for a time struggled to conceal her anguish, under the mask of assumed gaiety, and to laugh at the malice of her destiny. But she soon found that Mrs. Lendrick had at least spoke true on one point, the world was not to be braved; she might have also added, that the misery of our heroine's own heart could not long be endured. She sunk beneath it, and for a length of time her reason and her life were equally despaired of. During this interval, though Mrs. Cleveland's health was daily failing, and herself growing more infirm, yet she attended Rosa with all the fondness and assiduity of a mother. Nor did Mrs. Lendrick fail in the farce of attention; calling frequently to inquire after, and pity the unfortunate young creature.

At length, contrary to every one's opinion, Rosa recovered. Renewed health gave activity to her frame; but brought not peace to her heart. Among the most early of her visits, on going

out, was one to Mrs. Lendrick; but this lady, conceiving she could no longer be applauded for attention or compassion to a being, who seemed kindly forgotten by the world, received her with the most petrifying coldness. The old story, with additions, was brought forward to a victim issuing from confinement and the grave; and though she was still perfectly assured of her Rosa's innocence, and still loved her dearly as a sister, yet several people had been advising with her, and for her children's credit and her own, she must decline all further connection with her.

Wild, haggard, almost distracted, Rosa rushed from her presence, and sought Mrs. Cleveland's, almost fearing she too would be changed, and that she would be spurned from the door. When she entered, she understood that a nephew of Mrs. Cleveland's had arrived from Ireland, on a visit to his aunt, and that, agitated by the meeting, she had retired early to her chamber with an order not to be disturbed. The young man had walked out, and poor Rosa retired to a pillow of thorns, and wept the bitter tears of misery unconsolated. When she should have risen, she fell into a deep sleep, from which she was awaked by the frantic screams of Mrs. Cleveland's maid, who burst into the room with the dreadful intelligence, that her mistress had been found dead in her bed! Rosa sprung from the couch, reeled, and fell senseless on the floor. When she recovered, she found herself supported in the arms of the imprudent girl, whose rashness had occasioned her indisposition. While Mrs. Cleveland's physician, bent over her, a burst of sorrow relieved her full heart, as she met the compassionate gaze of the good Doctor.

"My dear young lady," said the worthy man, "our friend is gone to receive the reward of her benevolence, in another and a better world! She died," he continued, answering the anxious inquiries he read in her looks, "owing to the bursting of a blood-vessel, which was occasioned, I must imagine, by the vehemence of coughing; but she is happy!" He paused, and a tear fell on his hand.

Rosa now, in spite of his entreaties, insisted on proceeding to the apartment

of her deceased benefactress, and never did a sincerer mourner sink beside the bed of death. She wept the friend of many years, the friend who alone in life cared for, or regarded her, and so forlorn, so exquisite was her sense of misery, that she almost thought, till then, she had never been unhappy.

Rosa's reason, as we have already observed, always fell a victim to the approach of calamity, and her ideas now became wild and unconnected. But still, the recollection of her desolate situation, and the necessity of her removal from her present residence (as Mrs. Cleveland's nephew seemed to be utterly devoid of delicacy or feeling) was forcibly impressed. Mr. De Clifford had never sent her any remittances, and she had but five pounds remaining of the last quarter's payment of the annuity, Mrs. Cleveland generously allowed her; and as she had not made a will (the property being hereditary) she could expect no other provision. Poor old Janet was some time dead! but Lucy was well married, and let lodgings in rather a superior stile than what her mother had done. For her, as a last resource, she sent: the faithful creature immediately obeyed the summons; but shocked by the expression of our heroine's countenance, she burst into tears. Her apartments were fortunately unoccupied, and Rosa having with a gloomy composure, and a brimful eye, watched till the last of the mourning train disappeared, which attended her benefactress to her narrow home, was by Lucy conveyed almost unconscious of her situation to a hackney coach, and shortly set her down at the habitation of her humble friend.

Rosa had now reached the utmost climax of suffering! she had outlived every dear connection, every social feeling. The day wore an appearance gloomy as her sensations, and she seated herself at a window, which presented but a view of dirty streets, and bustling passengers. Every one seemed to have an end in view; a something to inspire them, except herself. Her heart swelled with an incoherent sense of her own desolate situation. Dreams of times departed floated on her mental vision, when her voice was wont to add to the

hilarity of a cheerful circle, and her presence was the promoter of mirth, and good humour. Her sensations each moment assumed a wilder tinge of madness; she groaned in the agony of an afflicted spirit, and frantically exclaimed—

"They say I am guilty! and why should I not be so? for who have I to care for my innocence? I am despised, abandoned, spurned!"—she paused, and gazed frantically around her; the shades of her mother, and of Mrs. Cleveland seemed to pass before her. They smiled approvingly; De Clifford, and Mrs. Lendrick closed the groupe; they also smiled, but to the glazed eye of the maniac, it appeared maliciously! "Ha! you triumph!" she wildly continued. "But I will make you yet feel! I will show you what I might have been, and what I will be. Nay, frown not my mother, your Rosa will be kept in magnificence, and magnificence, in this world is every thing, and guilt—oh! real guilt is nothing!"

Burning whirlwinds seemed to rush through her brain! she tottered to a table, where lay her letter-case, and a pen and ink. With feeble hands, she with difficulty traced the following lines.

"I am yours, come quick, or I will fly far away, where you, nor any one else, shall find me——"

Rosa."

She hesitated who to direct this to, and at length scrawled Mr. Murray's address. "They will think he is my father," she said wildly putting her hand to her head. "When guilty; they will perhaps give me credit for innocence."

She rung the bell, and Lucy appearing, she, with impressive wildness desired her to convey that letter to the post-office; Lucy terrified by her looks, durst not disobey her; and Rosa, fatigued by her exertions, sunk into a chair.

Ah hapless Rosa! had any compassionate friend whispered to thee, that this conduct was the mere effervescence of frenzied madness; had they soothed thee with the celestial balm of benevolence, and led thy thoughts to a *higher power* for comfort, thy fate might have been dif-

ferent. But thou wert friendless, and doomed to be unfortunate.

A heavy stupor now oppressed her faculties. The gloom of evening rapidly approached; and her solitude remained undisturbed, except by the tender cares of Lucy. Rosa unconsciously pulled from her bosom the locket which contained her parent's hair, she gazed on it with deep emotion; it awakened tender recollections, and her heart clung to them. She had often heard her mother say, it was the first present her father had made her. The darker hair she knew was his.

"My father," she tremulously repeated, "alas! I never knew a father, but my mother, my sainted mother;" asked she wildly, "shall I prove unworthy of my mother?"

Absorbed in her emotions, she heard not the opening of the door; nor perceived the entrance of Mr. Murray. The hoary libertine paused, appalled by the picture presented him. Rosa, with dishevelled hair, frenzied eye, and a countenance bearing that within which passeth show, bent over the locket. Strange, undefinable emotions were felt by Mr. Murray. He could not speak; but the oppression of his heart was relieved by a deep sigh; Rosa started. The gentleman advanced, "I came madam——" by your request he would have added; but frantically shrieking, Rosa, with the inconsistency of madness, clung to Lucy for protection; and as she twined around her, the ribbon which confined her locket snapped, and it fell on the floor. With prophetic agitation, Mr. Murray stooped to lift it; but scarce had he done so, ere the wildness of the maniac seemed communicated to himself.

"Your name," he incoherently, but in deep accents muttered.

"Oh! do not hurt me!" she fearfully replied, "I am Rosa, and my mother was Rosa, yes Rosa Davenant, but my father was——"

He knew no more, the unprincipled Mr. Murray—the libertine lord Loughshiel, now marquis of Roxborough, sunk senseless at the feet of his unhappy daughter!

It was the marquis of Roxborough who now suffered, under the avenging

chastisement of heaven! We will do him the justice to own, that on the death of his father and Lady Loughshiel (who fell a victim to a rage for dissipation, when in a state of pregnancy) he made every possible search for the object of his juvenile attachment with a wish to do her justice; but his efforts to discover her proving vain, he insensibly again imbibed the libertine pursuits he had been but too partial to in youth. Rosa's appearance he had been much struck with, and though her summons was a little incoherent, he eagerly obeyed it.

Sensibly awakened to the fond and agonized fears of a father, the Marquis, when he recovered, found his scourge bitter as his sins, as he viewed the situation of his daughter. He ordered Lucy instantly to prepare a comfortable bed. Medical men of the first eminence were called in. Every delicacy which luxury could invent or money purchase, was procured. But, alas, his attentions came too late! the heart of the sufferer was broken! Alternately, in the delirium of her fever, she raved of her mother, Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Lendrick, and De Clifford, and on the evening of the fourth day, she, without having obtained one interval of reason, sunk, an early prey, to tyrant Death! a hapless victim of calumny and deception!

O! women, stiled lovely and gentle! where lie those qualities, when you wield the deadly sword of scandal! the sneer! the whispered tale! the malignant smile, with which you stab your hapless victim!—Did you but consider, that every sentence you utter, carries a barbed arrow to the heart of innocence! Were the annals of the unfortunate of your sex strictly examined, it would be found, that many of them, unfriended—destitute, yet innocent! sunk beneath your poisoned malice! and became the guilty thing you wished to make them; and that many guilty, but not irretrievably so, were driven to the only resource left them, by the austerity of your virtue.

The Marquis of Roxborough, a prey to remorse, and that never-dying worm conscience, did not long survive his unhappy daughter. Ere his death, however, he had the body of Mrs. St. Clair removed beside Rosa's, in the family

vault, and erected a splendid monument to their memory. Vain mark of ostentatious affection! Mrs. De Clifford's uncle reached England in safety, but too late to experience the peace and happiness he sought for in his family; and, disappointed in his wishes, returned to India. The erring De Clifford, awakened from his dream of dissipation, also returned, but it was only to weep with unavailing penitence over the tomb of her he had so basely deserted; to execrate his own criminality, for the blessing he had lost; and vainly to regret that he had ever left her. Of Mrs. Leudrick we will say little. Let us leave her to her own reflections, which will no doubt one day prove her own punishment, and convince her, that never did she lose a sincerer friend than she did in the unfortunate Rosa.

MARIA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SKETCH OF A SHORT EXCURSION LATELY TAKEN IN THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.

"Speak of me as I am."

SHAKESPEARE'S OTHELLO.

Monday.

HAVING met with three friends (two ladies and a gentleman) going to visit Edinburgh, I was prevailed on to accompany them part of the way by two inducements; first, very fine weather, and secondly, an agreeable party. A. M. Embarked on board the packet at Donaghadee, for Portpatrick, where we landed after a passage of four hours. The only unpleasant circumstance during our passage was, the extreme sea-sickness of our fair companions, who were comforted by "sure and certain hopes" of recovery in a few hours. After breakfasting at Portpatrick, we proceeded in a post-chaise to Stranraer, to which a new level road is just now preparing, the present road being one of the worst in Scotland. Stranraer is agreeably situated on the south side of Loch-ryan, which to the N. and N.W. affords excellent anchorage, and frequently abundance of herrings, and other kinds of fish are caught here.

The main street of this town is long,

and well built, although not regularly so, and near its junction with the Glenluce road is very narrow. A small expense might obviate this inconvenience, by enlarging the bridge, and the adjoining part of the street. Several smaller streets and lanes intersect the principal one. The town is so eligibly situated, that its increase and improvement are unavoidable; the great roads to Dumfries, Ayr, and Portpatrick, leading through it, so that there is a constant resort of travellers. Stranraer is the seat of a custom-house, and as well as the coasting trade to Glasgow, Greenock, &c. has considerable exports and imports, to and from England and Ireland. It is also a royal burgh, having a vote for a representative (in conjunction with three other burghs) in the Imperial Parliament. Stranraer is mostly the property of the Earl of Stair, and has about 3000 inhabitants. It is a port town, and has well frequented fairs for horses and oxen. Here are two good inns; the *King's Arms* is the best house. From Stranraer to Cairn, six miles, a level road, close to Loch-ryan. The peninsula here called the *Rhynnes of Galloway*, reaches from Loch-ryan to the Irish sea. The length, from the Mull of Galloway on the south, to the Fairland point, on the north, thirty miles; breadth, from three to six. In the loch several vessels were at anchor, and on the opposite shore of Kirkcolm, good land, and snug farm-houses; yielded a pleasant prospect. The estate of Cairn belongs to Mrs. Dunlop; and Loch-ryan house, the property of that family, uninhabited for many years, is prettily seated near the shore, contiguous to a steep rocky hill, overgrown with heath; which, with several tall trees adjoining, and the rumbling of water down innumerable precipices, renders the view not displeasing. Here is also a good slate quarry. The village of Cairn contains only a few houses, irregularly built, on the side of Loch-ryan. The inn is tolerable. Here we procured another chaise, and fresh horses. As this carriage was not so large as the one we brought hither, we were greatly crowded. Neither was my male friend of the smallest dimensions, but a "jolly, portly man,

with a wig about his ears." However we crushed together wonderfully, to give our ladies sufficient room; and when a man must be squeezed, his suffering is greatly palliated by coming in contact with an amiable accomplished woman, "nature's darling child." A few miles from Cairn, a rivulet called the *March-burn*, separates the shires of Wigton and Ayr. Crossing a bridge over this rivulet, we now entered the latter county; the water rushes down in various directions from the conterminous heights, and forms a pretty cascade.

Proceeding a little distance to the interior, with increasing admiration of the wild romantic scenery, the traveller enters the vale of *Glen-nap*, through which a river of that name takes its winding course. Numerous flocks of sheep and goats were browsing along this glen, and upon the adjacent hills. The vale is extensive, and along the banks of the river we perceived a few scattered farm-houses. Here, too, on some sequestered spot, may the uncorrupted swain breathe forth, "devoid of all guile," the effusions of unalterable love to his favourite shepherdess; who with that endearing smile, ever peculiar to female beauty and innocence, may receive the tender, delightful impression, and own a mutual flame. And when alone, she may use her charming "wood-notes wild," in praise of her absent lover, to the true old ballad,

"Up amang yon cliffy rocks,
Sweetly rings the rising echo,
To the maid who tends the goats,
Lilting o'er her native notes:"

These rural scenes, secluded from the bustle and luxury of great towns, and the comforts of polished society, may, notwithstanding, yield to their industrious, unambitious inhabitants, the blessings which arise from religion, morality, and contentment. But thus fondly ruminating on the happiness of a pastoral life, may detain me too long upon the *braes of Glen-nap*. I shall proceed with my narrative. The highest hills here within view are those of *Caerlock and Ben-y raird*, perhaps not inferior to the Welsh or Highland scenery. Near the head of the glen is a toll-house, wherein is paid the usual

charge by travellers (those on foot excepted) for repair of the road, which is unavoidably steep and hilly, but always in good order. Here we purchased some excellent hazle-nuts. Entering Ballantrae (twelve miles from Cairn) above a narrow part of the road, overhanging the river Stinchar, are the ruins of a castle, which in former times must have been a place of considerable strength, the residence of some ancient military chieftain. The river Stinchar, or Ardstinchar, here falls into the Irish sea. The Salmon fishery of this river lets for 80*l.* per annum. Ballantrae, and the adjoining country, are the property of Sir Hugh Dalrymple Hamilton, bart. It is but an insignificant village, containing about half a dozen tolerable houses, and a few thatched cabbins. The parish church, and church yard, like many others in the country parts of Scotland, are immediately contiguous to the Manse, *i. e.* the minister's house, which is here pleasantly situated fronting the sea. The inn, though not large, is pretty comfortable. Here we arrived at six in the evening, in time for dinner, which consisted of an excellent salmon, and very nice Galloway mutton, which, although much smaller, we thought more tender, and more agreeable to our palate than the English or Irish mutton. The wine and other liquors were very good. We retired to rest rather fatigued, intending to proceed no further than Girvan the ensuing day.

Tuesday.—A road, through the interior, by the parish of Colmonell, and partly along the river Stinchar, leads from Ballantrae to Girvan, distance 18 miles; another road, along the shore (15 miles) which although very hilly, we preferred. Ascending a few miles, the prospect is peculiarly romantic and interesting. On the east, the towering hills, covered with heath and natural wood; in some places the road runs zig-zag, winding past steep rocks and intricate caves. Again it overhangs rugged precipices, descending several hundred feet to the edge of the water. While on the west, amidst the azure extent of the rolling billows, old Ailsa with insular dignity, stands with majestic elevation. Ard-

millan-hill, supposed the nearest part of the mainland to Ailsa, a conical island or rock, about five leagues distant. It belongs to the Earl of Cassilis, of whom it is rented at £25 per annum. Its only inhabitants are goats, rabbits and sea-fowls, particularly Soland geese, the feathers of which, and the skins of the rabbits, when sold, pay the rent. On the summit is a ruined castle of ancient erection. This rock is in view during more than thirty miles of the journey from Stranraer to Ayr. Ailsa, in clear weather, is also visible from the opposite north-eastern coast of Ireland. At a short distance north-east from the road, upon an eminence, are the ruins of Carleton castle, from which Sir Andrew Cathcart has his title of Baronet.—Within three miles of Girvan, the country exhibits a more fertile cultivated appearance. The people were busy reaping. Eastward from the road, stands a neat mansion, well sheltered by lofty hills and plantations which in the phrase of the country are called Policies. Entering Girvan, there first appears a long street of thatched houses, inhabited by weavers, as the manufacturing of woollen and cotton articles prevails here. Girvan is a Burgh or Barony, governed by Bailies &c. it has two decent streets, with some adjoining lanes; it is also a post and fair-town. Near the river there are several well built houses. The parish church is a plain decent edifice. This town is in the estate of Sir Hugh Dalrymple Hamilton, bart. and probably contains 2000 inhabitants. Here we found an excellent inn—every thing comfortable. In the evening I sent for my venerable acquaintance, Bailie W.—We spent some time gravely, though not unpleasantly, in enumeration of the amiable character, genius and talents of his deceased son, Surgeon W.—my late worthy friend.

Wednesday.—Although five miles out of our way, we took the interior route from Girvan to Maybole (17 miles) by the river Girvan. Here the country assumes a complete contrast to that we left behind. In place of "*Moorlands and mountains, rude barren and bare,*" appear cultivated fields, gentlemen's seats, clumps of

trees on the sloping hills, verdant lawns, and numerous farm-houses and cottages. We passed through the pretty village of Daily. In this district the elegant mansions of Sir H. D. Hamilton of Bargeny, Sir Adam Ferguson of Kilkerran, Mr. Kennedy of Dalwherran, &c. are well entitled to the attention and admiration of the curious traveller. Maybole (the property of Lord Cassilis) is a populous thriving little town, seated upon an eminence. The woollen manufacture is carried on here. The parish church newly erected, is a handsome building of hewn stone. Here is a good inn, where we stopped to change horses, and to take refreshment. Excellent freestone quarries abound in this neighbourhood. From Maybole to Ayr 9 miles, the road is level and good, and the country remarkably fertile and populous. The bridge over the river Doon has a magnificent arch, being larger than that of the Rialto at Venice. Here I could not avoid humming the elegant and pathetic stanzas, beginning,

"Ye banks and braes of bony Doon,"

the production of the inimitable Burns. A short way from the bridge of Doon, stands the cottage that gave birth to this celebrated genius. It is now a country ale-house, kept by Miller Gowdie. Here we delayed a few minutes, and drank to the memory of the Ayrshire Bard. The gentlemen of Ayr with a degree of taste and liberality that does honour to them, annually meet in this ale-house, to dine and celebrate the anniversary of their native Bard. While passing the ruin of *Alloway Kirk*, the highly humorous and well known tale of "*Tam O'Shanter,*" recurred to my memory. At sun set we entered Ayr, where for refreshment and repose we found an excellent inn.

Thursday.—Here we found our breakfast-table decorated beyond expectation; kipper'd salmon, cold ham and eggs, honey, marmalade, preserved fruit, tea, coffee, toast, &c. were suitably arranged. English epicures have acknowledged the superiority of Scotland for a *breakfast*, and Ireland is said to excel in *suppers*.

Friday.—Ayr is a large, well built town, situated on both sides of the river

Ayr, which here falls into the Frith sea, a few leagues from the Frith of Clyde. The streets are broad and straight, with several well furnished shops. The number of inhabitants is about 7000. The quay is well built, and vessels of 400 tons burthen can get over the bar at high-water. Ayr is a royal Burgh, governed by a Provost and Bailies &c. It has a parliamentary vote, in conjunction, with Inverary, Campbeltown, Rothesay and Irvine. The churches, court-house, custom-house, barrack, bank, colliery, &c. are handsome buildings.

Saturday.—The new bridge is a fine specimen of modern architecture. Here are very extensive coal-works, which have yielded a handsome fortune to the proprietor. The principal export of this article is to Ireland. Ship building is here carried on extensively. The manufactories of cotton, linen, woollen cloths, tanning of leather, shoes and saddling also prevail.

Many important transactions in Scottish history have occurred here. This town has several commodious inns. Here is a mail-coach every day to Glasgow, and a stage-coach thrice a week to Portpatrick. Ayr is 77 miles from Edinburgh, 34 from Glasgow, 46 from Greenock, 50 from Dumfries, 12 from Kilmarnock, and 63 from Portpatrick. During our stay we took some jaunts through the environs of Ayr. The country is naturally fertile, and highly improved. On the banks of the river Ayr, the *holms* and *dells* are well cultivated. These, with the rising grounds, "*O'erhung with wild-wood thick'ning green,*" form a luxuriant landscape.

Tarbolton, although a small village, is situated upon a gentle declivity, in the midst of a beautiful country. Here I was most cordially received by a reverend friend Mr. C—, whose piety, learning, and amiable manners, render him an ornament to his sacred profession, and have also endeared him to his congregation and connections. From Loudon-hill there is a fine prospect; the village of Mauchline and many other places, rendered classic ground by the works of Burns, are situated in this neighbourhood; "*Willie's Mill,*" mentioned in his poem of, "*Death*

and Dr. Hornbook," is in the village of Tarbolton, sometimes called the Clagham. The iron-works at Mainkirk are very extensive. Eglinton-castle, the earl of Eglinton's; Coglsfield-house, Lord Montgomerie's; Loudon-castle, the earl of Moira's; Auchinleck, Mr. Boswell's; and Auchincruive, Mr. Oswald's, are all elegant, commodious mansions.

Sunday and Monday.—'Tis highly pleasing to see the solemn respect that is paid to the Sabbath-day in all parts of Scotland. Going to their different houses of public worship, the inhabitants of Ayr, have a remarkably decent, genteel appearance. To the fair sex here, nature has been liberal of her charms, as few towns of similar magnitude, can produce so many beautiful accomplished females. I must again quote two lines from the works of Burns:

"Auld Ayr, whom ne'er a town surpasses,
"For honest men, and bonny lasses."

Here I left my friends to pursue their journey, regretting that business did not permit my accompanying them to Edinburgh, where I had before spent some months with much satisfaction.

Tuesday.—At seven o'clock, A. M. took a seat in the stage-coach for Portpatrick; my only fellow traveller was a Glasgow merchant, an agreeable, intelligent gentleman, on his way to Dublin, for which city, and for Belfast, he had several introductory letters to persons highly respectable. Leaving Ayr, the prospect is pleasing in all directions, and is terminated by the lofty mountains of Arran, and the rock of Ailsa. Betwixt Maybole and Kirkoswald, stand the ruined palace of *Baltersau*, and the large beautiful ruin of *Cross-Hagwell Abbey*, a very small part of the roof yet remains. We had neither leisure nor inclination to explore these ancient ruins, as I had gratified my curiosity in that respect upon two former tours. At the general dissolution of religious houses in Scotland, the lands annexed to this monastery were granted to the family of Cassilis.

While breakfast was preparing at the inn of Kirkoswald, we walked to a hill, upon which stands the parish-church, a neat clean building contiguous to the Manse; from this hill a

fertile, well-cultivated tract of country is visible. Kirkoswald is a neat, little village, belonging to the earl of Cassilis, whose superb mansion of Culzean castle is in this vicinity. From Kirkoswald there is a smooth level road along the shore to Girvan, from whence we proceeded to Ballantrae, where the coach stops twenty minutes, which we spent agreeably in the Manse, where we were courteously and hospitably received by the Rev. Mr. D—, to whom I had been introduced some years ago. This pious and venerable gentleman is only the third minister of Ballantrae, since the revolution of 1688.

My companion, who had not before seen this part of the country, was delighted with its picturesque appearance; at Cairn we waited for dinner, which consisted of nice roasted mutton, and excellent fresh herrings. At seven, P. M. we arrived at Portpatrick, I invited a friend to the inn, where we spent a social pleasant evening.

Wednesday.—Portpatrick is a small sea-port town, over-hung with steep hills and rocks, close to the Irish channel. The entrance to the harbour is narrow and rocky, but the quay (on the top of which is a light-house) is one of the best in Great Britain, and was built at a very considerable expense about twenty years ago. The depth at high-water in this harbour, is about ten feet, and in high spring tides, sixteen feet. A little to the southward of Portpatrick, stands the ruined castle of Dunskey, boldly erected upon a precipitous rock, overhanging the sea. From this port the packet-boats regularly sail, with the mail, &c. to and from Donaghadee, from whence Portpatrick bears due E. by N. distance about eight leagues.* The packets are all Irish property, and registered for the port of Donaghadee. Portpatrick is the seat of a custom-house, and the importation here of horses and oxen from Donaghadee and Bangor is very great. At Portpatrick are two commodious inns. A mail-coach is established here, and passes regularly to and from Carlisle, distance, 124 miles. For a more minute, and

perhaps accurate account of Portpatrick, I refer my readers to the "*Statistical Survey of Scotland*," in which will be found a description of this parish, by the learned and Rev. Doctor Mackenzie, minister thereof. Portpatrick is 140 miles from Edinburgh, 96 from Glasgow, and 83 from Dumfries. From Portpatrick, after a passage of two hours and twenty minutes, we landed at Donaghadee, where we reflected satisfactorily on our excursion, and where a comfortable room, a good dinner, excellent wine, &c. compensated for our boisterous passage, and gave us reason to thank Providence, that we were once more upon terra firma.

M.

Donaghadee.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN our last number, having given an analysis of the new discoveries, with regard to potash, communicated by Humphrey Davy, to the Royal Society of London, which we extracted from the London Monthly Magazine, we now from the same publication, give an account of the properties and nature of the basis of Soda.

The basis or metallic substance obtained by decomposition, is a solid at the common temperature. It is white, opaque, and if examined, under a film of naphtha, has the lustre and general appearance of silver. It is exceedingly malleable, and is softer than any of the common metallic substances. It is a good conductor of electricity and heat, and small globules of it inflame, by the voltaic electrical spark, and burn with bright explosions: its specific gravity is something more than 93. It becomes fluid at about 180° of Fahrenheit, but the exact degree of heat at which it becomes volatile, has not been ascertained.

The chemical phenomena produced by the basis of soda, are in many respects, analogous to those produced by the basis of potash: when exposed to the atmosphere it immediately tarnishes, and by degrees becomes covered with a white crust, which deliquesces much more slowly than the substance that forms the basis of potash, and which proves to be pure soda. The basis combines slowly

W W

* Portpatrick belongs to Sir D. H. Blair, bart.

with oxygen, and without luminous appearance, at all common temperatures, and when heated this combination becomes more rapid, but no light is emitted till it has acquired a temperature nearly to that of ignition. In oxygen gas it burns with a white light: in oxymuriatic acid gas, it burns vividly, with a bright red light; saline matter is formed which proves it to be muriate of soda. When thrown upon water, it produces a violent effervescence, with a loud hissing noise; it combines with the oxygen of the water to form soda which is dissolved, and its hydrogen is disengaged.

The basis of soda acts upon alcohol and ether in the same manner with the basis of potash. The water contained in them is decomposed; soda is rapidly formed, and hydrogen is disengaged. When thrown upon the strong acids, it acts upon them with great energy; if the nitrous acid is employed, a vivid inflammation is produced; with muriatic and sulphuric acids, there is much heat generated, but no light.

It combines with sulphur in close vessels, filled with the vapour of naphtha, with great vividness, with light, heat, and afterwards with explosion from the vaporization of a portion of sulphur, and the disengagement of sulphurated hydrogen gas. The phosphuret has the appearance of lead, and forms phosphate of soda, by exposure to the air, or by combustion. The basis of soda in quantity of one fortieth part renders mercury a fixed solid of the colour of silver, and the combination is attended with a considerable degree of heat. It makes an alloy with tin without changing its colour, and it acts upon lead and gold when heated.

From some very accurate experiments, Mr. Davy has found that 100 parts of potash, consist of 86.1 of the basis, and 13.9 of oxygen: and in 100 parts of soda, there will be 80 parts of the basis, and 20 of oxygen.

To the question, whether the basis of potash and soda should be called metals, Mr. Davy says, that the greater number of philosophical persons answer in the affirmative. They agree with metals in opacity, lustre, malleability, conducting powers, as to

heat and electricity, and in their qualities of chemical combination; their low specific gravity does not appear to be a sufficient reason for making them a new class; for among the metals themselves there are remarkable differences in this respect; platina being nearly four times as heavy as tellurium; and in the philosophical division of the classes of bodies, the analogy between the greater number of properties must always be the foundation of arrangement. Hence the basis of the alkalies are denominated, potassium and sodaum.

In reference to his own discoveries, Mr. Davy observes, that, "In the common processes of nature, all the products of living beings may be easily conceived to be elicited from known combinations of matter. The compounds of iron, of the alkalies, and earths with mineral acids, generally abound in soils. From the decomposition of basaltic, porphyritic, and granitic rocks, there is a constant supply of earthy alkaline and ferruginous materials to the surface of the earth. In the sap of all plants that have been examined, certain neutrosaline compounds, containing potash, or soda, or iron, have been found. From plants they may be supplied to animals. And the chemical tendency of organization seems to be rather to combine substances into more complicated and diversified arrangements, than to reduce them to simple elements.

From the fixed alkalies the Professor proceeded to the earths, which are non-conductors of electricity. The alkalies become conducting substances by fusion; the infusible nature of the earths, rendered it impossible to operate upon them in this state: the strong affinity of their basis for oxygen, would not admit of their bodies being acted upon by solution in water; and the only methods that proved successful, were those by which they were operated upon by electricity in some of their combinations, or of combining them at the moment of their decomposition by electricity, in metallic alloys, so as to obtain evidences of their nature and properties.

On this plan, Mr. Davy undertook

a series of experiments on barytes, strontites and lime, employing upon them the same methods as he had used in the decomposition of the fixed alkalis. Gas was, in each case, copiously evolved which was inflammable: and the earths which were in contact with the negative metallic wires became dark-coloured and exhibited small points, having a metallic lustre, which, when exposed to air gradually became white: they became white likewise when plunged under water, and when examined by a magnifier, a greenish powder seemed to separate from them.

He then made mixtures of dry pot-ash in excess, and dry barytes, lime, strontites, and magnesia, brought them into fusion, and acted upon them in the voltaic circuit, as he had done in obtaining the metals of the alkalis. He hoped by this means, that the potassium, and the metals of the earths, might be de-oxygenated at the same time, and enter into combination in alloy. Metallic substances appeared less fusible than potassium, which turned the instant after they had formed, and which, by burning, produced a mixture of potash, and the earth employed. He had found, that when a mixture of potash and the oxides of mercury, tin or lead, was electrified in the voltaic circuit, the decomposition was very rapid and an amalgam on an alloy of potassium was obtained. He tried the same on a mixture of two parts of barytes and one part of oxide of silver, very slightly moistened; when it was electrified by iron wires, an effervescence took place at both points of contact, and a minute quantity of a substance possessing the whiteness of silver, formed at the negative point.

A mixture of barytes and red oxide of mercury, in the same proportions was electrified in the same manner. A small mass of solid amalgam adhered to the negative wire, which evidently contained a substance that produced barytes by exposure to air, with the absorption of oxygen, and which occasioned the evolution of hydrogen from the water, leaving pure mercury, and producing a solution of barytes. Mixtures of

lime, strontites, magnesia, and red oxide of mercury treated in the same manner, gave similar amalgams, from which the alkaline earths were regenerated by the action of air and water.

While Mr. Davy was pursuing these experiments, he heard that Professor Berzelius, and Doctor Pontin of Stockholm, had succeeded in decomposing barytes and lime, by negatively electrifying mercury in contact with them, and that in this way they had obtained amalgams of the metals of these earths. Mr. Davy repeated the experiments with a battery of 500 and obtained the most perfect success. The mercury gradually became less fluid, and after a few minutes was covered with a white film of barytes, and when the amalgam was thrown into water, the hydrogen was disengaged, the mercury remained free and a solution of barytes was formed. The result with lime was precisely analogous, so also was that of the strontites; with magnesia it was with more difficulty obtained.

All these amalgams may be preserved a considerable time under naphtha, but in a length of time they become covered with a white crust. When exposed to air, a very few minutes only were required, for the oxygenation of the bases of the earths.

In several cases Mr. Davy exposed the amalgams of the metals of the earths containing a very small quantity of mercury, to the air on a delicate balance, and he always found that during the conversion of the metal into earth, there was a considerable increase of weight. He also found, that, when the metals of the earths were burned in a small quantity of air, they absorbed oxygen, gained weight, and were in a highly caustic and unslacked state; for they produced strong heat by the contact of the water, and did not effervesce during their solution in acids. Hence it is inferred, that the evidence for the composition of the alkaline earths is of the same kind as that for the composition of the common metallic oxides; and the principles of their decomposition are precisely similar; the inflammable matters in all cases, separating at the negative surface in

the voltaic circuit, and the oxygen at the positive surface. The professor denominates the metals obtained from the alkaline earths, *barium*, *strontium*, *calcium*, and *magnium*.

The professor next tried a number of experiments on the other earths, which were not alkaline, and from the general tenor of these results, and the comparison between the different series of experiments, there seems very great reason to conclude that alumine, zircon glucine, and silex, are like the alkaline earths metallic oxides. He admits, however that the evidences of decomposition and composition are not of the same strict nature as those that belong to the fixed alkalies and alkaline earths; for it is possible that in the experiments on which silex, alumine, and zircon appeared to separate during the oxidation of the potassium and sodaum, their bases might not actually have been in combination with them, but the earths themselves, in union with the metals of the alkalies, or in mere mechanical mixture.

The strong attraction of potassium, sodaum, and the metals of the alkaline earths for oxygen, led Mr. Davy to examine if their de-oxydating power could not be made to produce the effect of the amalgamation of ammonia, independently of the agency of electricity; and he found, that, when mercury, united to a small quantity of potassium, sodaum, barium or calcium, was made to act upon moistened muriate of ammonia, the amalgam rapidly increased to six or seven times its volume, and the compound seemed to contain much more ammoniacal basis than that procured by electrical powers.

The amalgam from ammonia, when formed at the temperature of 70° or 80°, is a soft solid, of the consistence of butter; at the freezing temperature it becomes firmer and a crystallized mass, and its specific gravity below 3. When exposed to air, it soon becomes covered with a white crust, which proves to be carbonate of ammonia.

"The more," says Mr. Davy, "the properties of the amalgam, obtained from ammonia, are considered, the more extraordinary do they appear. Mercury, by combination with about the

17¹⁰⁰ part of its weight of new matter is rendered solid, yet its specific gravity diminished from 13.5 to less than 3, and it retains all its metallic characters; its colour, lustre, opacity, and conducting powers, remaining unimpaired. It is scarcely possible to conceive, that a substance which forms with mercury so perfect an amalgam, should not be metallic in its own nature; hence it is denominated ammonium."

From the preceding facts, the following questions have occurred: On what do the metallic properties of ammonium depend? Are hydrogen and nitrogen, both metals in the aeriform state, at the usual temperature of the atmosphere, bodies of the same character as zinc and quicksilver would be in the heat of ignition? Or, are these gasses in their common form, oxides, which become metallized by de-oxidation? Or, are they simple bodies, not metallic in their own nature, but capable of composing a metal in their de-oxygenated, and an alkali in their oxygenated state?

Assuming the existence of hydrogen, in the amalgam of ammonium, its presence in one metallic compound evidently leads to the suspicion of its combination in others. And in the electrical powers of the different species of matter, there are circumstances that extend the idea to combustible substances in general. Oxygen is the only body which can be supposed elementary, attracted by the positive substance in the electrical circuit; and all compound bodies, the nature of which is known, that are attracted by the surface, contain a considerable proportion of oxygen. Hydrogen is the only matter attracted by the negative surface, which can be considered as acting the opposite part to oxygen; "may not then," says the Professor, "the different inflammable bodies contain this as a common element?"

Should future experiments prove the truth of this hypothesis, still the alkalies, the earths and the metallic oxides, will belong to the same class of bodies. From platina to potassium there is a regular order of gradation as to their physical and chemical properties, and this would probably extend to ammonium, could it be obtained in the fixed

form. Platina and gold, in specific gravity, degree of oxydability, and other qualities, differ more from arsenic, iron, and tin than these last do from barium and strontium. The phenomena of combustion of all oxydable metals, are precisely analogous. In the burning in air, potassium forms an alkali, and calcium an earth; in a manner similar to that in which osmium forms a volatile and acrid substance by absorption of oxygen, does the amalgam of ammonium produce the volatile alkali? and, if we suppose the ammonia is metallized, by being combined with hydrogen, and freed from water, the same reasoning will apply to the other metals, with this difference, that the adherence of their phlogiston of hydrogen, would be exactly in the inverse ratio of their attraction for oxygen. In platina it would be combined with the greatest energy; in ammonium with the least; and if it be separable from any of the metals, without the aid of a new combination, we may expect that this result will be afforded by the most volatile and oxydable, such as arsenic, or other metals of the fixed alkalies, submitted to intense heat under electrical polarities, and having the pressure of the atmosphere removed.

Mr. Davy concludes by hoping, that the new facts which he has discovered, may admit of many applications, and explain some phenomena in nature. "The metals of the earths," he says, "cannot exist at the surface of the globe; but it is very possible that they may form a part of the interior; and such an assumption would offer a theory for the phenomena of volcanoes, the formation of lavas, and the effects and excitements of subterraneous heat; for let it be granted that the metals of the earths and alkalies, in alloy with common metals, exist in large quantities beneath the surface; then their accidental exposure to the action of the air and water must produce the effect of subterranean fire, and a product of earthy and stony matters analogous to lavas.

"The luminous appearance of those meteors, connected with the fall of stones is one of the extraordinary circumstances of these wonderful phenomena. This effect may be accounted

for, by supposing that the substances which fall, come into our atmosphere in a metallic state, and that the earths of which they principally consist are the results of combustion."

At the meeting of the Royal Society, Feb. 2, a most curious and interesting paper, by Mr. Davy, was read, giving an account of various experiments on the action of potassium on ammonia, from which it appears, that a considerable quantity of nitrogen can be made to disappear, and can be regenerated. When it disappears, nothing can be obtained in its place but oxygen, and hydrogen; and when it is formed, its elementary matter is furnished by water.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the tale of "the Cottagers of Glenburnie," honourable and deserved notice is taken of David Manson, who so long and so successfully filled the respectable situation of instructor of youth in the town of Belfast. He may be considered the precursor of Lancaster, in facilitating the modes of instruction. I would be highly gratified if any of your readers would furnish, through your Miscellany, a sketch of his life, and particularly of the modes of instructing and managing youth, which he so advantageously practised.

As biography may be made so very useful in conveying lessons both to young and old, I wish to see many of your pages filled with interesting accounts of persons eminent in their respective lines. They who have been residents in your town or province, have peculiar claims on your notice; the memoirs of such might have a good effect in stimulating others to follow virtuous examples. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE DECOMPOSITION OF THE EARTHS.

IN arts and sciences the progress of discovery has been extremely slow, some of these have arrived early at comparative perfection, while others remained for ages in a state of infancy, involved in the darkest obscurity, or confined to some very erroneous principles. It is curious to reflect, that though the science of chemistry was

not altogether unknown, though the changes in the properties of matter could not but attract attention, we find it entirely neglected in the time of the Romans, at a period when their language and some of the arts had arrived at an unrivalled state of elegance and perfection; for, if we except some observations on metallurgy, few traces of this engaging science can be seen in their works. The art of dying had indeed made some progress, and Pliny seems to be acquainted with the method of making glass; it does not seem that they attended even to alchemy, which promised so many advantages, nor is it sooner than the time of Constantine the Great, that we find two authors, Julius Maternus Firmicius, and Aeneas Gaeus writing expressly on this subject; but their works, as might be expected, are full of fanciful projects and chimerical ideas. The doctrine of the elementary bodies, which prevailed for many centuries, is most completely overturned; their four simples, fire, water, earth and air, have been gradually converted into compounds, the properties of which are now nearly developed by sober investigation and philosophical research.

Fire, the first element of the ancients, is composed of light and caloric; air, of azote and oxygen; water, which was also thought to be an unchangeable element, till the time of Van Helmont, was about thirty-three years ago proved to be formed of oxygen and hydrogen, by Macquer, and Sigoud de la Fond; and five years afterwards Watt Cavendish and Lavoisier, both by synthesis, and analysis, fully verified the truth of the discovery.

Earth, in the acception by which it was distinguished as an element, is comprised of no less than nine different substances, commonly called earths; these are,

1. Lime, which has been known and used in medicine, since the earliest ages.

2. Magnesia, discovered about a hundred years ago, and described in succession by Valentini, Frederick Hoffman, Dr. Black, Margraff, Bergman and Butini.

3. Alumine, which was long known in a compound state, but its properties were not ascertained sooner than the

year 1727, when Geoffry Junior showed that it constituted a part of clay; it was afterwards described by Margraff, Morveau, Macquer, Bergman, Scheele and Saussure.

4. Barytes, discovered by Scheele, in 1774.

5. Strontian, first analysed in 1793, by Dr. Hope, Klaproth, and Mr. Kirwan.

6. Yttria, the properties of this earth were demonstrated about twenty years ago, by Geyer and Rinman, and afterwards by Gadolin, Ekeberg, Klaproth and Vauquelin.

7. Zirconia, analysed in 1789, by Klaproth, and afterwards by Guyton Morveau and Vauquelin.

8. Glucina, discovered in 1798, by Vauquelin, and described afterwards by Klaproth and others.

9. Silica, which seems to have been known to Pott, Geoffry and Beaumé, but not described in a satisfactory manner, till analysed by Scheele, Cartheuser and Bergman.

These nine earths and the two fixed alkalies, were, till very lately classed by most writers among the simple or elementary bodies; it was reserved for the industrious and indefatigable Davy to decompose and demonstrate, in the plainest manner, by means of Galvanism, that the earths are metallic oxides. The object of this paper however is not to show how these curious researches were conducted (as that may be seen in the elaborate accounts of the author) but to remind the reader, that while Mr. Davy is deservedly extolled with enthusiasm, while his industry and assiduity are looked up to as exemplary, and while a portion of success crowns his exertions, which seldom falls to the lot of any individual, we are not to forget that the justly celebrated Lavoisier, with his usual sagacity, had concluded from several circumstances that the earths were *metallic oxides*, and that several other philosophers appear to have been quite confident of the fact. We even find that about nineteen years ago, some experiments were made in the laboratory of the Academy of the Mines at Chemnitz, in lower Hungary, by Messrs. Tondi and Ruprecht, in which they were certain of having decomposed lime, magnesia, and barytes

by means of charcoal, and to have procured the *metallic bases*, by causing their oxygen to combine with that substance.* An account of these experiments is given in a description of the cabinet of Mademoiselle Raab of Vienna, by Baron Born, and in the third and fourth edition of Lavoisier's elements of chemistry by Mr. Kerr, the translator. Baron Born, in this account, remarks that he expects soon to learn that the siliceous and argillaceous earths, are likewise *metallic oxides*. Mr. Kerr has also some very just and curious remarks on this subject, in which he refers hydrogen and azote, carbon, sulphur, and phosphorus, to the metallic class.

The following are the most striking analogies which exist between the earths and metallic oxides:

1. The earths may be reduced to white powders which form coloured salts with acids.

2. They are precipitated by prussiate of potash and tincture of galls.

3. None of the earths are combustible, and of course none of them are capable of combining with oxygen.

4. They are soluble in acids† without decomposing either water or the acid, to acquire oxygen, and consequently without effervescence; so are all metallic oxides, for no pure metal is soluble in an acid, unless it either decompose the acid or water, that it may be converted into an oxid, it was this circumstance that induced the great, but unfortunate Lavoisier to observe, that, "since oxygen is the bond of union between acids and metals, so it is between earths and acids, and that the earths are *metallic oxides*, with which oxygen has a stronger affinity, than with carbon."

Now, if it added so much to the glory of Sir Isaac Newton, to have

*In these experiments they must have been deceived; for though charcoal at a high temperature, has such an affinity for oxygen, as to be able to decompose water and most metallic oxides, yet it is certain that the earths cannot be decomposed by its means, since their base has a greater affinity for oxygen than charcoal has at any temperature we can produce,

†Silica excepted, soluble only in fluoric acid.

concluded from the strong refracting power of water, that it contained a combustible body, though he was ignorant of its component parts; and if Vauquelin was led to the true analysis of the beryl, by the intimation he received from the discerning Huay, who concluded from mineralogical considerations, that it was formed of the same ingredients as the emerald, though he was unable to decompose it. If Huay was deservedly praised for this, what share is due to those who not twenty years since were almost satisfied of the *metallic nature* of the earths, though they were not acquainted with the means of demonstrating that fact by experiment? Or, in analyzing a mineral, or compound of any kind, with what ease might we proceed, if previously informed of what elements it consisted?

Let us then, in congratulating Mr. Davy on his unexampled success, impartially reflect on what was effected by those who went before him; let us weigh the distinct merits of each, and bestow on each a proportionate share of approbation.

Reddere cuique'sua, est æqui bonique hominis.

J. M. S.

Belfast, May 12, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine

SIR,

AS there are some expressions, in the Review of my Introduction to the Irish Language, published in your Magazine, for March last, which tend directly (though, I am persuaded unintentionally) to mislead a person who is not a judge of the subject; I request, and expect of your partiality, the insertion of the following explanations.

I rest my pretensions to originality upon the conviction that at least *nine tenths* of my work, consist of matter that was never before published. A coincidence with other writers, in some things, must appear, even where there was nothing borrowed.

The number of moods, *modes* or *manners* of expression, is not greater than what is marked out by manifest differences. And the tenses are simply, past, present, and future, with the addition of the consuetudinal, a tense of the most expressive use in the Irish language. Nor will it appear strange that the Irish regu-

lar verb, which undergoes eleven inflexions, besides the personal terminations should be conjugated through five moods, and *four* tenses; when it is considered that many of the ablest grammarians, inflect the English verb through five moods, and *six* tenses, though it undergoes only *three* variations. The very different form assumed by several verbs, when used affirmatively, negatively, and interrogatively, suggested the propriety of exhibiting them at large. Indeed copiousness has been my object throughout; as I conceived it more useful to publish a book which a man might consult, than one that a child might get by rote. I believe the scheme of Irish verbs exhibited at pages 62, and 66, is more *concise*, and complete than any thing published before on the same subject.

But the most singular sentence in the review is the following. "The work also contains *some* familiar dialogues which will be useful to the student, and a translation of the songs of Deardra, from the death of the three sons of Usna. If these were intended for an exercise to learners, they are too loosely translated."

Whether the incorrect punctuation here be *intentional* or not, I cannot determine; but it certainly implies that the translation of the dialogues, &c. (comprising 84 pages, on a variety of subjects) and that of the *three* songs is equally free. This is incorrect. The former are translated with great closeness; the latter with that freedom which is observed in the most elegant translations.

The standard of orthography, which I have always followed, is the Irish Bible, published nearly 130 years ago, by bishop Bedel. When a better shall be invented, I shall readily adopt it; in the mean time, it is sufficient to observe that the ancient manuscripts afford no *one* such standard.

I am sir, yours &c.

Dundalk, May 5, 1809. W. NEILSON.

P.S. I forbear to make any remarks upon the anonymous grammar recently published; as I think the compiler of one grammar not the most proper person to review the similar work of another.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE COMPARATIVE STRENGTH OF BARILLA AND POTASH.

I AM pleased to find that your Magazine gives an account of the new discoveries in chemistry, and thus may serve as a literary journal of the progress in the sciences and the arts, after the model of the most respectable British Magazines—a line hitherto very seldom attempted in Ireland, but in which I trust you will persevere. You must frequently borrow from brother Journalists, who live nearer to the sources of intelligence; but when you candidly acknowledge your obligations, all is fair. Practical communications on subjects relating to the staple manufacture of Ireland, particularly that part of it so closely connected with chemistry, might be very serviceable. To contribute my share, and in hopes of drawing forth similar contributions from others, I send an account of some experiments lately made at my bleach-green on the comparative of barilla and potash by means of the alkaline hydrometer, graduated so, that 0 stands for water and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 denotes the strength used for the ley in bleaching. An equal weight of the following alkalies, dissolved in similar quantities of water, produced the following results:

Barilla,.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Montreal Potash,	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
New York ditto.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$

Or in round numbers the comparative strength of those materials was in the following proportion, and consequent value in bleaching viz.

Barilla,.....	15
Montreal Potash,	26
New York ditto.	25

So that as an efficacious material in bleaching, barilla does not appear to be worth more than three fifths of the value of potash.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE HERRING.

Concluded from p. 245, No. IX.

THE herring is very much exposed to pursuit; man above all is a particular foe, not only along the coasts, but sometimes even in the open

sea, as is the case with the Dutch, who fit out entire fleets to seek them in the ocean. The whale also, particularly that species called *Nord-caper*,* destroys them by thousands. This creature turns itself round with such rapidity, that it not only receives a large quantity of herrings into its mouth, as into an immense gulf, but causes an agitation in the waters, which is sensibly felt by any boats in its vicinity.†

The water-fowl also, and in particular the herring-gull,‡ pounce by thousands on them from the air. This bird directs the fishermen to the proper places for laying their nets. When it flies high, it is a sign that the herring is near the bottom; when low, it shows that the herring is moving near the surface; should the weather be very hot, the fish keeps near the bottom, where the bird can neither see it, nor point it out, and the fishing is then generally bad.

We have already said that the Baltic trout (*Salmo Lavaretus*) follows the herring to eat its eggs, and thus is an obstacle to its increase; the same may be said of the Salmon trout (*Salmo Trutta*.)

Many kinds of fish in the ocean are found to be very numerous, such as the smelt (*Salmo Eperlanus*) the sole, the cod,§ the Shad (*Clupea Alosa*) and the sprat (*Clupea Sprattus*) but none so much as the herring.

During many ages, man has destroyed at least a thousand million annually; other animals devour an equal quantity without any diminution of the prodigious numbers of this fish. We may form a judgment of this

* *Balaena Glacialis*.

† We may judge by an anecdote related by Horrebrow, how many herrings one of these fishes can swallow at once. The Icelanders once seized a whale which having approached too near the shore while it was in pursuit of hake (*Gadus Merluccius*) was left dry on the bank, they found in its stomach six hundred live hake, besides a great quantity of sprats, and some water-fowl.

‡ *Larus fuscus*, L.

§ Schoneveld, calls the cod-fish (*Gadus merhua*) Kablaun. And Linnæ in his "Fauna Suecica" calls it Cabbliä. Can Cabbliä be the same? Trans.

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quantity from the following fact: in the single parish of Svanoe, in Norway, such a number of herrings were caught in one year, as filled eighty *jagts*. It requires an hundred tons to load a *jagt*, and one ton contains 1200 small herrings of the North. Now according to Pontoppidan, an equal quantity are stifled in the strait, on account of their numbers; we may therefore conclude that there are in this place about 19,000,000. According to the same author, as many herrings may be caught in a single haul of the net as would fill an hundred *jagts*, that is, ten thousand tons. Finally, M. Fabricius assures us that by enclosing an arm of the sea with a net, many thousand tons may be caught. In Norway, as the herring constitutes the principal part of the food of the inhabitants it has been called the king of fishes. From Berghen alone they export several hundred cargoes annually. In 1752, when the fishery was by no means abundant, 132,156 tons were exported from this city, between the months of January and October, without including what were exported towards the end of the year. If we count all those which are sent from other towns, the great quantity consumed in the country, or used for bait, we may calculate that in this country alone they take on an average annually, the quantity of 396,468 tons, and supposing each ton to contain 1200 fish, makes their number 415,739,600.

The Dutch annually send a thousand or twelve hundred hoys to the herring fishery. Twenty-five lasts are generally supposed to be the cargo of a hoy, and it often happens that many are filled a second time, when the first cargoes have been expeditiously landed. Suppose there are but a thousand hoys, and allow twenty-five lasts to each, and a thousand herrings to the ton, each last contains twelve tons; whence it appears that the Dutch annually catch 300,000,000 herrings. Not fewer are caught in Scotland and Ireland; thirty thousand tons are annually sent to France, from Clyde, in Scotland, and forty thousand from Yarmouth. Sometimes the take of fish is so great in this place, that it gives employment to eleven hundred vessels, which contain 140,000,000 herrings; if to this

be added those taken on the coasts of England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Brabant and Flanders, the quantity will be immense. In 1776, different towns in Ireland sent three hundred and twenty-seven boats to the herring fishery, each boat on an average took 100,000, making in all 32,700,000. The French save about 60,000 tons annually. In Chesepeake-bay the inundations throw up such quantities on the shore as to occasion fatal consequences from the putrefaction. In the neighbourhood of Gottenburgh in Sweden, they are also taken in large quantities, and 200,000 tons are saved annually: besides this 400,000 tons are used annually for extracting the oil. In 1780, from twenty-five to twenty-seven thousand tons of oil were exported; but in 1781, not more than twenty-two thousand. In addition to this must be reckoned fifty thousand tons of fresh herrings either consumed in the country or sent to Denmark. Now reckoning the ton at 1,200 herrings, upwards of 720,000,000 fish are annually destroyed in this small district.

Lapland is also supplied with this fish. According to the account of Ysbrand, and Kraschenmennikow, they may be also found in considerable numbers in Kamtskatka, where four tons are often caught at one draught. We must also take into consideration those on the shores of the Baltic.—The inhabitants of Holstein, Mecklenburgh and Swedish Pomerania also take them in great numbers every year; of these some are salted, others smoked and sent out of the country, without reckoning such as are consumed in Livonia and the other countries on the shores of the Baltic.

The nets and boats used in the herring fishery, are of different sizes. Those employed by sailors near the coasts, are smaller than what are used in the open sea. The Dutch hoys are generally from forty-eight to sixty tons burden; some however are from eighty to a hundred, the largest of which contain sixty lasts. Three or four *jagts* are required for each hoy, to supply them with provisions, and to receive the herrings caught in the three first months, and to con-

vey them as expeditiously as possible to the nearest ports. According to a decree of the magistrates, the Dutch nets ought to be five or six hundred fathoms in length, and to consist of fifty or sixty parts. At present they are made of a kind of coarse Persian silk, of a texture so durable, that a net of this kind lasts three years, while one of hemp serves but for one. They are blackened by the smoke of chips, that the brightness of their colour may not alarm the fish. On the upper side they are kept afloat by casks, and stones fastened on the other edge force it to sink. The nets are cast at night because the fishery of herrings like that of most other species is then most successful. Herrings are also apt to be attracted by the light; for this reason lanterns are suspended to the hoys in order to entice them to the nets, which are sometimes so full that a single one is often found to contain from ten to eleven lasts. This fish also takes the bait. Mr. Low assures us that he has caught many thousand with a trout fly. The fishermen often make use of the hook to discover the place where the fish may be found; they throw out a line, and when they catch a herring they think the situation favourable.

This fish is salted in two different ways; one of which makes what is called the white herring, the other the smoked herring. The former is prepared in the following manner.—As soon as the fish is taken out of the water, the throat is cut and the entrails taken out: it is then put into a brine so thick that a herring will float on its surface. At the end of sixteen or eighteen hours they are taken out and put into the ton, for the quantity is so great that it does not allow of their being embowelled immediately in the ship as should be done. But as this is not sufficient to secure them from putrefaction, they are spread out on benches as soon as they are brought to land and again sprinkled with salt. Five pounds of Spanish salt, together with fresh brine is employed for each ton. In Holland, the brine is made under the eye of the government. According to the laws of this country the good and bad are bar-

relled up separately, and their comparative value marked by a brand on the cask. They also take care that the casks be made of oak, and to join the pieces closely, lest the brine should waste and the herrings spoil. In the other method of saving them the herrings remain longer in the brine, that is for twenty-four hours at least. When taken out, they are strung up by the heads on small wooden skewers, and hung up in chimnies made for the purpose, called *roussables*: beneath this is placed a small wood fire so arranged as to produce little heat and much smoke. They remain in the stove until they are sufficiently browned and smoked: which generally is the case in twenty four hours; they are then put into casks or laid in straw. The largest herrings are generally chosen for this purpose, and the Dutch smoked herrings are preferred to all others.* In Sweden and Norway they are prepared in a different manner; less salt is used, and they are laid in casks either perforated or entirely open. The Irish dry their herrings on the rocks, and the Greenlanders in the air.

Salt herring when eaten in small quantities is not injurious to the health, on the contrary it is peculiarly serviceable to such as have lost their appetite through a weakness of the stomach; but it has a different effect on those who have an abscess in the lungs, or in any other part of the body, either internal or external, or even on those who are of a scorbutic habit.

The herring can be removed from one part of the sea to another as has been practised with success in Sweden. They can also be multiplied by means of their eggs, as may be seen by the following passage extracted from the

*The common suffrage of all nations confirms it that the Dutch herrings are the best. No other cause can be assigned for this general preference than the scrupulous adherence to the regulations and provisions just mentioned, it being by no means true that the art of curing, salting, and packing herrings is confined to the Dutch alone.

Tilloch Phil. Mag. xvi. p. 47.

travels of Peter Kalm. As the passage agrees so well with my subject, I shall quote it all together.

"Mr. Franklin told me the following fact: In the part of New England where his father lived, two rivers discharge themselves into the sea, in one of which a prodigious quantity of herrings were caught, while none could be found in the other, though the mouths of both were contiguous. It had been remarked that the herrings went up every spring to the same river, in order to lay their eggs. M. Franklin, who lived between the two rivers, thought it might be possible to make the herrings go up the other river also. For this purpose he took the nets to which the fish had fastened their eggs, and laid them in the other river, where they were hatched. The experiment succeeded, and every year after herrings were caught in this river. However this may be, it serves to show that fish like to return to the places where they were born, and where they have entered the first time they quitted the main ocean, in order to spawn in the place to which they have been accustomed."

The cavity of the belly in the herring is long, the milt and ovary are double. The latter weighed seven drams in a middle sized herring, and contained 68,656 eggs, which were white, and very small. But as Harmer found but 10,000 in one herring, it is probable that the fish which he inspected had been caught at the spawning time, and had discharged part of its eggs. The air-vesicle is simple, and terminates in a point at each end. The stomach consists of a thin skin; the internal canal is strait, short, and encompassed with twelve appendices. There are thirty-five ribs on each side, and fifty-six vertebræ in the dorsal spine.

This fish, when it comes from the Northern Ocean, is called

Heering, Hering, in Germany.

Strohmling, when it comes from the Baltic.

Buckling, when it is smoked.

Strohmling, Strimmales, Silk, Konna, and *Kenge*, in Livonia.

Sill, in Sweden, when it is of a large size.

Stroming, or *Stromling*, when it is small.

Sild, *Zuale-sild*, and *Grabecn-sild*, in Denmark, when it is large, *Stromling* when it is small.

Straafe-sild, and *Gaate-sild*, in Norway, *Kapiselikan*, in Greenland.

Beltschutsch, in Kamtskatka,

Haring, in Holland.

Herring, in England.

Hareng, in France.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE EXCURSION....A DIALOGUE.

MRS. E. You say there was something wanting to complete the happiness which you hoped to enjoy on your excursion yesterday.

Mary. Yes Ma'am, and without that something I would have preferred staying at home.

Mrs. E. Pray were your companions disagreeable?

Mary. No, I could not find fault with them, they were very obliging.

Mrs. E. Was your conveyance inconvenient?

Mary. Our carriage was completely calculated not only for ease, but that we might behold all the surrounding beauties.

Mrs. E. Were you uncomfortable at having left home, or what was the cause of your dissatisfaction?

Mary. Having left every thing regulated at home, and in good hands, I set out without any anxiety, and was rejoiced at the prospect of beholding a country famous for its beauty; and the idea of travelling with my old school-fellows, was an additional pleasure. As soon as we were in sight of a small portion of the beautiful scenery which was new to me, I admired aloud every thing which struck me; my companions answered "it was very pretty," and continued the discourse which they had just commenced about the convenience of hats and habits for travelling. I was a little disappointed, but as we advanced farther into that enchanting country, so amply enriched with variety of scenery both fertile and wildly sublime, I thought surely their admiration would be called forth, but what was my astonish-

ment and mortification that they still continued their trivial conversation, and seemed to grow tired of my remarks, not even granting me the two words "very pretty." I then endeavoured to be silent and to enjoy myself without their assistance; but I found it was impossible to have complete happiness without participation. Sometimes I incommoded my friends by turning round to look at every side. Almost at the end of our drive we descended into a deep glen, the solemnity and grandeur of which enraptured me. I considered what enjoyment I should have if I was there alone, and at liberty to walk slow, and to climb up the sides, from the top of which I was sure there were lovely prospects; I also considered that I might probably never be there again, and was extremely mortified to be driving through it, as if it were the most uninteresting place in the world; but as we professed to be on a party of pleasure, I requested to be let down to walk there until they returned; they were very unwilling, but said if I chose to be so odd I might do as I pleased; accordingly I got out, and never did I behold any thing to equal the beauties around me. But there was something wanting; my heart was overflowing with rapturous delight, but there was no one to participate with me. But to be alone was much better than to be listening to conversation which so disagreed with my feelings. My companions returned and took me up. I was silent most of the remainder of the journey, although I strove to enter into their discourse, but I found it impossible: now you know the whole cause of my dissatisfaction.

Mrs. E. I perfectly understand all the sensations of pain and pleasure, you have related. You are very young; you feel your heart glowing with admiration of nature; your natural warmth and sociability of disposition causes you to wish for participation, and your inexperience causes you to be disappointed and mortified when you meet with contrary characters; but wait a little while, and you will find your passions will become cooler, and experience

will cause you not to expect to meet with persons of similar dispositions; yet you will retain a temperate and sweet admiration of nature, and when chance leads you to mix with characters to your taste, you will also feel a temperate but lasting pleasure—Do not

despise moderation—Do not confound it with stupidity; they inspire their votaries with far different sensations: but your own good sense assisted by experience will be of more use to you than any thing I can say.

ELIZA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

LIFE OF THE EARL OF MACARTNEY.

Continued from p. 285, No. IX.

ABOUT this time the Court of Directors of the East India Company were looking out for a proper person to fill the Presidency of Madras. The enormous abuses which had been committed by a succession of weak or wicked governors, who had attained this station, through no merit of their own, but merely by the routine of service, loudly called for reformation, and it was evident to every man of sense and honesty, that in order to restore the reputation of the administration, and establish the affairs of the company on a firm basis, the choice must fall on a man of known capacity, integrity and firmness. Notwithstanding the great difficulties that appeared, many candidates presented themselves. The choice at length, after some opposition, fell upon Lord Macartney; so universal was the prepossession in his favour, both among the directors and proprietors, that he was appointed without the usual forms of a ballot.

Immediately after receiving his appointment, he set out to take possession of his charge, and at the beginning of June, 1781, arrived at Madras. On inquiring into the general state of affairs he found them still worse than they had been represented. A war had been declared against the English by Hyder Ali, who had followed up this declaration, by an invasion of the Carnatic. At the head of an army of 100,000 cavalry, he over-ran the Carnatic, spreading desolation on every side, and gratifying his hatred of the English; by the indiscriminate slaughter of every one subjected to their dominion. The country was depopulated. Those who escaped the sword, fled to the seat of government for shelter and support. The city of Madras, surrounded on

every side by large detachments of the marauding Indians, who daily approached to the very gates, was forced to depend on the precarious subsistence procured by sea. The multitudes which flocked in, increased the pressure of public calamity. The British government, which, either through contempt or ignorance, had neglected to make the proper preparations, wasted the time that should have been employed in opposing the enemy, in useless recrimination. The army was badly paid; the native troops deserted in numbers to the enemy. Those which remained were disabled, through want of cavalry and military stores, from taking the field. And the only two allies to whom the English could look for relief, the Nabob of Arcot, and the Rajah of Tanjore sent in supplies sparingly and with reluctance. To complete all, a war which broke out between England and the United Provinces added a formidable enemy to the number against which the British Government in India had to contend.

At this crisis Lord Macartney assumed the reins. By employing all his influence, both public and private, he collected means sufficient to satisfy the troops for the present, and inspire them with better hopes for the future, and immediately taking advantage of the spirit thus raised, led them out, and gained several important advantages over the enemy. At the same time conscious of the difficulties against which he had to struggle he made proposals to Hyder Ali for a pacification. The reply of this chieftain shows that the conduct of the English in similar cases had been such as to render their fidelity in keeping the engagements entered into with the native powers more than doubtful. "The governors and sir-

stars," says he, "who enter into treaties, after one or two years return to Europe, and their acts and deeds become of no effect. Prior to your coming, when the governor and council of Madras had departed from their treaty of alliance and friendship, I sent my agent to confer with them, and to ask the reason of such breach of faith; the answer given was, that they who had made these conditions were gone to Europe." This conduct was attended by such consequences as might have been expected. Hyder Ali preferred entering into a close alliance with the French and Dutch in the hope that their united arms would be able to exterminate the British power in India.

This is not the proper place to enter into the details of a campaign in the operations of which the subject of this memoir did not take an active part, though he may be justly styled the main-spring, the vital principle, as it was by his superintendence that the officers commanding were able to gain such signal advantages as retrieved the affairs of the English, and gave them reason to hope for more solid success in future; yet the following summary of events proves that the company were not mistaken in their opinion of the person in whom they reposed so great a trust.

In the first six months of his administration the main army, effectually assisted by the exertions of the presidency, without which it could not possibly have kept the field from the total want of pay and provisions, was enabled to bring the enemy to two decisive actions and to gain the two important victories at Portonovo and Conjeveram. By well planned enterprises and by detachments from the garrison of Madras was effected the capture and destruction of the Dutch settlements of Sadras, Pulicat, Madepollam, Policat, Bimlipatam, and Negapatam, thereby dissolving the connection that had been formed between this power and Hyder Ali, annihilating its influence on the Coromandel coast, and driving the enemy out of the Tanjore country; and these successes were crowned by the assignment made by the nabob

of Arcot to Lord Macartney, for the use of the company, of the revenues of the Carnatic; thus taking them out of the hands of the rapacious Mahomedan agents of the nabob, who employed their power to oppress the natives and enrich themselves, and lodging them in hands through which they could be applied to the service of the company.

In the following year Lord Macartney had new difficulties to contend against. His active interference in all departments of the administration, both civil and military, had excited the jealousy of the commanders both by sea and land. Sir Eyre Coote, a general of ability and experience, finding that he could not exert the unlimited controul over all military arrangements, which he had been accustomed to exercise, permitted his private feelings to prevail over his public duty, and after a fruitless endeavour to raise the military department to an independence on the civil, during which he threw many obstacles in the way of the presidency, which retarded the progress of success, he retired to Bengal, under the excuse of ill-health. The admiral also, Sir Edward Hughes, after having successfully opposed and baffled at sea his active and persevering antagonist Suffrein, towards the close of the year, formed the resolution of going round the peninsula to Bombay to refit, and notwithstanding the urgent remonstrances of the government of Madras, which foresaw that the preservation of that part of the British dominion depended principally on its naval superiority, he adhered to this determination. The consequence would have been fatal, had the French admiral taken advantage of his departure, and blocked up the harbour; but as he had heard of the arrival of another English squadron in these seas, he was afraid to expose his shattered fleet to new assaults, and left the settlement unmolested.

The death of Hyder Ali, which occurred at the end of this year, afforded a prospect of a favourable change. But this was soon clouded. His son, Tippoo Saheb, who succeeded him, inherited all his father's animosity, and seemed to possess superior means of giving it efficacy. With the money

which he found in the treasury, he paid off the soldier's arrears; he abolished the duties on provisions sold in the camp, and adopted a system of indulgence to the troops, directly opposite to the severe policy of his father. Thus by some well-timed popular acts, and the hopes which a new reign generally inspires, as well as by the adoption of European discipline, he threatened to become a more formidable opponent to the British power than ever Hyder Ali was.*

After the departure of Sir Eyre Coote, the command devolved on General Stewart. This officer seems to have assumed the ideas of his predecessor along with his rank, and to have employed his thoughts much more in counteracting the views of the president, than those of the common enemy. He employed every invention to protract his departure

* Hyder Ali, a few days before his death is said to have sent for his two principal Dewans, and dictated to them the following letter to be delivered to Tippoo Saheb. "I marched out of my country to attack and drive the English out of their possessions in the Carnatic, in which attempt I have expended a great treasure. I invited the French, but since their arrival have never received any assistance from them; however, should I recover, I think I should be able to finish what I have begun. I have raised myself to the Nabobship of Seringapatam, established a great name, and conquered many countries. I therefore desire you will not bring disgrace on my name. You will make peace with the English, and return with your army to Seringapatam, and establish yourself in the government. I think there is no reliance to be put upon any assistance from the French; but would their ships arrive in a month or twenty-five days, you may join them. But weigh all matters well: do nothing rashly, and consider whether or not you can effect my plans. When you make peace, give large bribes to the English officers, procure the fort and district of Poodichah, belonging to the Trichenopoly entry, and the hill and district of Hally belonging to the Vellore country. You must have it stipulated in the treaty with the English, that they are to grant assistance whenever you require it. I will also take possession of the forts Mahee, and deliver them over to the English."

from Madras, whence he was ordered to proceed to attack Cuddalore; and when at last he did set out, he contrived to prolong a march of 100 miles, the distance between the two places, from the 21st of April to the beginning of June. Nor did his conduct change on his arrival before the fortress. Through a defect in the mode of communicating orders to the several parts of the army, the three columns formed for the attack, on whose simultaneous effort much of the success depended, advanced singly and unsupported. The town indeed was taken, but it cost the lives of 60 British officers and nearly 1000 men, a loss severely felt in an European army, in India. On the general's return, Lord Macartney found it necessary to take a decided step for the preservation of the settlement, and accordingly declared him disqualified for assisting the public service either in the cabinet or the field in future, and dismissed him from the company's employ. This exertion of authority involved Lord Macartney in a duel on his return to England, in which he received a wound. Nor was it attended at the time with the immediate good effects expected from it. The spirit of discontent, joined to the idea of the independence of the military to the civil establishment, had insinuated itself so far, that major general Burgoyne, the next in rank, declined accepting the command, and the president found it necessary, rather than relinquish his claims, to raise colonel Lang, the senior infantry officer, to the rank of lieutenant general, in order to preserve the command of the troops in their own officers. Sir E. Hughes, who had returned to his station in spring, adhered to the same line of conduct he had hitherto adopted, and by declining an engagement with the French Admiral, chose rather to lower the character of the British navy, and to reject the laurels he might have easily won, than see any branch of them grace the brows of his rival. From the gloomy consequences of these jarring interests the settlement was fortunately relieved by a notification of preliminaries of peace having been signed between

France and England; and Tippoo Sahib found it his interest, after some delay and hesitation, to acquiesce in the proposals made to him, by commissioners from the English government, in consequence of which, on the 11th of March 1783, a treaty was signed by which a mutual restoration of places and prisoners was agreed on, conformably to the treaty of peace concluded in Europe.

The restoration of peace did not lessen the difficulties Lord Macartney had to encounter, it merely varied them. It was well known that the main object in his appointment to the government of Madras was the correction of abuses, and the extirpating of corruption. This it may be supposed created him many enemies among whom one of the most powerful and inveterate, was the celebrated Mr. Hastings, then governor-general of Bengal. The first attempt made to injure him, was by endeavouring to give up to the nabob of Arcot the assignment by which he had made over the revenues of the Carnatic to the company. To effect this every obstacle was raised to render it unproductive, and to vilify his conduct; but he was determined to persevere. His rigid adherence to covenants, and his positive refusal of all presents since his arrival in India, were so new as to render his motives at first inexplicable. At one time such conduct was imputed to his ignorance of the mode of governing the black population in India; at another it was suggested that his avarice required something more than what had yet been offered. Under this idea the usual present to a new governor of a lac of pagodas was augmented to two, with an apology from the nabob of having offered to a peer the present usually made to a commoner.—His refusal was viewed with the utmost astonishment. Soon after his arrival, another lure was thrown out. According to a custom common among the native powers who are said to be under the company's protection, every governor, admiral or commander in chief who happens to wear the insignia of any order of distinction or merit, is almost certain of being presented with a diamond star; he is

given to understand that a plain silver badge in India would be considered derogatory to his rank and station, and that he must therefore be allowed to present him with one more becoming his dignity. It is said to be "only a little *betel* among friends;" but to use his own expression, "it was a kind of *betel* he was determined neither to chew nor swallow."

When these means failed, they changed their system, and the nabob's ministers had recourse to the writing of letters, filled with misrepresentation and falsehood, to the government of Bengal. And, on finding this also ineffectual, they addressed a letter to the king of England, filled with a high-wrought description of the oppressive and cruelties exercised over the Carnatic, by the governor of Madras. This was accompanied by several others addressed to the Ministers and court of Directors, all unsupported by proof and destitute of foundation; but well calculated to mislead and inflame the unwary reader. To ensure success, the message to England was backed by a new complaint to the Bengal government. The latter part of the plan succeeded so far that the memorial, together with several other papers tending to criminate Lord Macartney, was transmitted to England, without any intimation of such proceeding to the party accused, and orders also given for the resignation of the assignment to the nabob. This order, however, was disregarded; the revenues still continued to be paid in the same manner in which they had so essentially contributed to the preservation of the Carnatic. This species of petty persecution ceased, however, by the sudden removal of Mr. Hastings, which gave time to his present rival to make his arrangements in quiet for the future welfare of the settlement. He had proceeded but a short way in his plans of improvement, when an order arrived from England to restore the assignment, and to substitute Mr. Holland as governor of Madras. The former of these proceedings was deemed expedient to give the nabob a proof of the honour and generosity of the British nation; the latter had been expected and desired. As he did not

wish to be a voluntary spectator of the resignation of that document, the attainment of which he looked on as an object of such importance, he determined not to wait for the arrival of his successor, but to return to England. He went by the way of Bengal, hoping to impress on the minds of the Company's servants there, the necessity of preventing the execution of this measure, or at least of delaying it till further instructions could be transmitted. For this purpose after having laid before the presidency a statement of his emoluments and expenses, by which it appeared that the whole amount of his revenue during his residence at Madras amounted but to £32,000, he arrived at Calcutta. He did not however succeed in the main object of his journey. The prejudices formed against him continued to operate, and were rather aggravated by his appointment to the government of Bengal, which was received by him while there. This, however, he declined, both from ill health and a wish to impress in a personal conference with the ministry, the true state of Indian affairs.

One of the difficulties he had to contend against was the dissension between the civil and military departments in the government, together with the jealousies arising between the king's troops and those in the company's service. The extremities to which the king's officers wished to proceed, may be judged of by the following circumstance. On the trial of Sir John Burgoyne, whom Lord Macartney had been reluctantly obliged to put under arrest, it appeared that at a meeting of the king's general officers, the day after General Stewart's arrest, a proposition was made by one of them to reinvoke Lord Macartney from his government, and appoint another in his place, and to seize General Lang, the new commander in chief. The proposition was however rejected by Sir J. Burgoyne, whose prudence probably suggested to him the absurdity of such an attempt against one who had proved himself to be so well prepared against outrage or insult.

In the beginning of the year 1806, Lord Macartney returned to London, where he had an interview with the

ministers, the result of which was his declining the appointment that had been offered to him when at Bengal, unless on conditions which were thought inadmissible, and the subsequent appointment of the earl of Cornwallis. During this recess from public affairs, in which he appears a solitary instance of an officer under the crown returning from India, where his conduct had met with the decided approbation of the king's ministers, without having received any mark of the royal bounty. This season of retirement he spent in improving his paternal property at Lissanoure, where it is probable he would have passed the evening of his days, had not another public duty called him again into action. This was the celebrated embassy to China, undertaken with the view of removing the disabilities under which the British merchants laboured in that country, and drawing closer the commercial relations between the two kingdoms. The history of that expedition is too well known to be dwelt on here. Though it is generally considered as having failed, yet some favourable changes have resulted from it. The British character became better known and more respected in China. Many petty impositions and inconveniences were removed, and the merchant was permitted to make his complaints in the first instance to the viceroy. It increased the demand for British cloth. It afforded means of acquiring a competent knowledge of the language, by which a direct communication is opened to the Chinese government, without being dependent on the missionaries, who often proved incorrect and false interpreters; the navigation of the Yellow Sea also became better known.

It was Lord Macartney's intention to have proceeded to Japan on his return, but in consequence of war breaking out between France and England, he thought it more advisable to employ the ships which carried him in conveying the Chinese trade to England. To this country he returned in the end of the year 1794, and on landing found that in his absence he had been elevated to the dignity of an Irish earl, by the title of Earl of Macartney, in the county of Antrim.

The year following he was chosen

to undertake a secret mission to Italy, which he conducted to the satisfaction of the ministers. On his return he was created a British peer under the title of lord Macartney of Packhurst in Surrey. While he was absent in Italy he was also appointed governor of the Cape of Good Hope, which had surrendered to the English in September 1795. His administration here was marked by the same system of public economy, the same steady perseverance, and the same disinterestedness which had marked his character in every former situation. While he remained there he was beloved, and regretted on his departure. The only unpleasant circumstance which occurred was a mutiny in the squadron stationed there. At first it was appeased, but on the arrival of some other vessels it broke out again in a more formidable shape. As there appeared no prospect of its yielding to gentle means, lord Macartney determined to bring it at once to an issue. For this purpose, he repaired with his aid-de-camps to the battery, ordered the guns to be loaded, and the shot to be heated in the ovens, and taking out his watch he dispatched a message to the mutineers, that if they did not make an unconditional submission in half an hour, and hoist the royal standard in token of obedience, he would blow them out of the water. The threat had its effect, and order was immediately restored.

This was his last public employment. After his return in 1799, he spent the remainder of his life in retirement. The last six years of his life were much embittered by violent and reiterated attacks of the gout: but in the intervals he seemed to enjoy with great relish the society of his friends. His house was the resort of every distinguished character; persons of all parties courted his society and conversation. In 1805 his constitution visibly declined, he entirely lost his appetite and rejected all kind of food. In this state; the unfortunate turn of affairs on the Continent, and the death of Mr. Pitt, threw a considerable damp on his spirits.— Yet still hopes were entertained by the physicians; and three days before his death he was able to read the whole of the budget brought forward by the new chancellor of the exchequer, whom he pronounced to be a promising young man. On the evening of the 31st of March 1806, while reclining his head on his hand, as if dropping into a slumber, he sunk into the arms of death, without a sigh or struggle. His remains were deposited in the church-yard of Chiswick according to his own desire, near a residence he had a few years before purchased for the joint lives of himself and lady Macartney, and in the improvement of which he took great pleasure.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

COAL-GAS LIGHT.

Description of an Apparatus for producing Inflammable Gas from Pit Coal; constructed by Mr. S. Clegg, Steam Engine Manufacturer, Manchester.

Trans. Soc. Arts, vol. 26.

THE Apparatus which Mr. Clegg has described in his communication to the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, &c. is designed for producing gas to light manufactories on a large scale.

The cast iron retort, or vessel in which the coals are put to produce the

gas, is of a cylindrical form, and is inclosed horizontally in a brick fireplace, with one end opening outwards, in a similar manner to the iron ovens in common use; a semi-cylinder of cast iron is placed beneath it, to preserve it from being injured by the intensity of the fire, and to make the heat more equable; the grate for the fire extends inwards about one-third of the length of the retort, and the flame, after circulating over it, passes upwards through a flue above the front part of the retort: it is supposed that the cast iron shield placed beneath the retort, joins the brick-work at each side,

though this circumstance is not stated in the description, because this would be necessary to make the flame pass on round the further end of the retort: the mouth of the retort is closed by a lid ground to fit it air tight, which is fastened by a screw in the centre (but what this screw turns in, to draw the lid close, is not mentioned). Near the retort, a well or pit is sunk, and filled with water, for the gas-holder, or vessel for equalizing the delivery of the gas to move in; this gas-holder is made of wrought iron plates, and is counterpoised by two weights, acting by chains, passing over pulleys fixed in a frame at a due height above; it is of a cylindrical shape, and has two frames of iron, formed like coach-wheels, placed at its extremities, to strengthen it. A vessel of cast iron is placed at the bottom of the well, into which the gas passes by a pipe that proceeds from the upper part of the retort, and in it deposits the tar oil, &c. which occasionally are pumped up from it by a pipe that rises above the well; from this vessel the gas rises upwards by a straight pipe, into an inverted vessel, closed at top, but open below, most part of which is below the surface of the water, where it is pierced with numerous small holes, through which the gas presses outwards, through the water, and rises up into the gas-holder: this inverted vessel is about eighteen inches diameter, and two feet long, in a large apparatus; it causes the gas to be washed in the most effectual manner, and prevents all danger of the water being drawn into the condenser, on cooling the retort, as might happen if the gas pipe terminated in the water. The gas at the lower part of the gas-holder not being so pure as that at the top, it is made to pass from the top alone by a vertical pipe in the centre, which rises and falls with the gas-holder, and reaches from the upper part to the water, and passes over a fixed pipe, rising from a second vessel at the bottom of the well (represented in the plate, but not mentioned in the description) from whence another pipe ascends close by the side of the well, to convey the gas to the lamps, where it is burnt. The gas enters the moveable pipe through small holes near its top, and is from thence conveyed

through the other pipes last described. The seams of the gas-holder are luted to make them air-tight, and the whole is well painted, inside and out; it is sunk to a level nearly with the top of the well, before the retort is heated, but when the gas comes over on applying the fire, it gradually rises, and moves higher or lower, according as the gas is produced more or less abundantly.

The lamps in which the gas is burned, are formed in the same manner as Argand's lamps; the gas passes into the space between their inner and outer tubes, by a pipe at one side; a flat ring closes the upper part of each, which is perforated with a number of small holes, through which the gas rises to the flame, surrounded by a glass funnel; a small stopper, like a button, is placed so on the top of a vertical wire within the glass, that it may be brought nearer or farther from the aperture of the internal tube by which the air passes, and regulate the velocity and direction of its current; for which purpose the wire slides upwards through two cross bars placed across the inner tube. This little addition is found to assist the combustion very much, and increase the light.

The dimensions of the apparatus are not mentioned in the description, but assuming the length of the inverted vessel as a standard, which is the only part whose capacity is noted in any case, the proportions of the different parts, as taken from the plate, will be thus: the gas-holder six feet in diameter, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet high; the retort about five feet long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter; the first condenser two feet in diameter; the second immersed vessel $1\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter; and the inverted vessel, or gas-washer, two feet long, and about one foot broad: the pulleys over which the chains work, which raise the gas-holder, $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, the well 7 feet deep, the flue of the chimney 9 inches across, and the space between the retort and the brick-work 6 inches, except over the fire-place, which is 18 inches long, and 10 deep.

Remarks on this Apparatus, extracted from the Athenaeum.

Mr. Clegg's communication has the

merit of being the first complete description of an apparatus of English construction, for producing coal gas, which has yet been made public, from which one might be made, without leaving the formation of any part to conjecture; with the exception of the mode in which the screw is to be applied for fastening the lid of the retort.

The gas-holder alone, in this apparatus, seems objectionable, in being made needlessly strong, as is stated to be formed of *wrought iron* plates, and is besides strengthened by two very powerful iron frames inside, when it is not liable to any great pressure internally or externally, or to any friction, which would require all this strength. For a common apparatus, on a small scale, a cask would probably do very well for this part, as the water with which it would be always in contact would keep it staunch.

An Account of the Method of Cultivating the American Cranberry, by the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks.

Trans. Hist. Soc. p. 2.

The American Cranberry, *Vaccinium Monocarpium*, has succeeded remarkably well at Spring-grove, under the management of Sir Joseph Banks.

It is cultivated on an artificial island in a basin, and on the banks of a pond at Spring-grove, which are supplied by a spring that rises in a small grove on the grounds, from which the place probably derives its name: to this constant supply of fresh water, though it is but small, the great luxuriance with which water-plants of all kinds suitable to the climate succeed in the pond, is to be in a great degree attributed.

In the middle of the basin a small island has been formed, by supporting a box of oak upon posts driven into the bottom; this box is 22 feet in diameter, and 13 inches deep; the bottom lies 5 inches under the surface of the water, and is bored through with many holes; on this a layer of stones and rubbish was first placed, and upon that a covering of bog earth from Hounslow Heath, which together are at the bottom 5 inches under the surface of the water, and 7 inches above it at the top; in this bed of black mould a variety of curious bog plants were placed about seven years

ago, which flourished in an unusual degree; among them was the *Vaccinium*, which flowered and ripened its fruit the first year. In the Autumn of the second year it again produced a plentiful crop, and soon after began to send out runners somewhat resembling those of a strawberry, but longer, and rather less inclined to take root while young; they did, however take root in the winter, and threw out upright branches, ten inches or a foot long, on which the flowers and fruit were chiefly placed; the produce was this year gathered, and found to be flavoured berries, very superior to those imported, which have in general been gathered unripe, and have become vapid and almost tasteless, by long soaking in the water in which they are packed for carriage. It was now determined to give up the whole of the island to the cranberry, which in a few years entirely covered it by its runners, without any fresh plants being added; and this bed, with the addition of some hanging boxes, receding from the center to the sides, produced, in 1806, twenty-three bottles of very fine cranberries.

In 1805, a bed was made on the side of the pond, 20 feet long, and 5½ feet wide, by a few stakes driven into the bottom, parallel to the sides, and lined with old boards; the bottom of this was filled with stones and rubbish, and on these a bed of black mould was laid, extending 3 inches above, and 7 inches beneath the usual surface of the water; this was planted with cranberry plants from a hot-bed, where many of them rooted, and thrived most vigorously. In the Autumn of 1807, this bed produced a crop, which, added to that of the island, afforded five dozen bottles of cranberries, besides a small basket for present use.

The total contents of the two cranberry beds is 326 square feet; the quantity of land employed for raising strawberries at Spring Grove is, after deducting the divisions between the beds, 5645 feet; the beds necessary to give a sufficient supply of cranberries for Sir Joseph's family, did not therefore occupy quite an eighth of the space allotted to the strawberries.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

THE HONEST CABINET-MAKER

Of Bolton le-Moors, in Lancashire, compared with certain characters of higher ranks. At a public dinner lately in Liverpool, in honour of Colonel Wardle, a gentleman in the course of his speech related the following anecdote.

IN my juvenile days I had the felicity to spend two years and a half, at Bolton le-Moors, which you well know is a kind of Lancashire Athens—a seat of the polite and liberal arts. Among other elegant amusements to which the inhabitants of that town were addicted, it was customary on a certain day in the year, to play a grand match of football in the main street: one half the town playing against the other, to the great emolument of the glazier and the surgeon; but to the extreme annoyance of the orderly part of the community. Some years ago the latter determined to put down this nuisance, and for this purpose procured the attendance of magistrates, who swore in a large *posse* of special constables. Among these executors of justice was an honest cabinet-maker, who was himself very fond of the prohibited game, and whose shop I well remember to have made a brilliant appearance in the market place. On the customary day the foot-ball players assembled, and the magistrates mustered their array of constables—when lo! my friend the cabinet-maker was missing, and on sending to his house the magistrates were informed that he had left town early in the morning. When the affray was over, he made his appearance, and on being reproached for his pusillanimity in deserting his post, he said, “I promise you I am no coward; but the truth is, I could not in shame come and knock men down with a truncheon for doing what I did myself but the very last year.” Now, gentlemen, on so grave and important a subject, I will not hazard an opinion; and I shall leave it for you to consider whether any compunctions of a si-

milar kind may have prevented the truncheon from descending upon the head of the accused.

HAIR POWDER.

This unaccountable decoration to the head was first introduced by certain ballad-singers at the fair of St. Germaine, in the beginning of the eighteenth century; they imagined that by its unnatural and grotesque appearance, it would add to the extravagance of their freaks and the wildness of their fun.

HANGING CHOICE.

In an interview with Joseph II. Emperor of Germany, Mr. Howard, the *real* philanthropist, described with considerable energy the comfortless and unwholesome state of the Austrian and Hungarian dungeons, and the little attention paid to the prisoners. His Imperial Majesty was somewhat hurt at Howard's strictures, as he had taken great pains to amend his penal code, and reduce it to a form which he considered as much less sanguinary than that of England. “I do not use them worse,” said he, “than you do in England, where you hang them up by dozens at a time.”—“Your remark may be true,” replied the other, “but permit me to assure your Majesty, that I had rather be *hanged* in England than *live* in your German prison.” “In truth,” said the Emperor, when his guest had retired, “this little Englishman is no flatterer.”

PUNNING EPITAPH.

The following Epitaph was composed by Lord Chancellor King, on an old domestic carpenter.

Posts oft he made, yet ne'er a *place* could
get,
And lived by *railing*, though he was no
wit;
Old saws he had, although no antiqua-
rian,
And *stiles* corrected, yet was no gram-
marian.

EXTRAORDINARY MEMORY.

Antonio Magliabechi, a native of Florence, was the son of indigent parents, but by indefatigable industry and extraordinary powers of memory raised himself to a respectable rank in

life. Of the latter quality the following anecdote may serve as a proof. When young he was employed as errand-boy in a bookseller's shop: his master speaking of him one day, said that there was not a book in his shop which he had not read, and the contents of which he would not be able to repeat word for word. Such an assertion was naturally much doubted, and, in order to ascertain its truth, a neighbouring gentleman lent him a manuscript which was to be printed immediately; after perusal, it was returned to the author, who, in a few days called upon Magliabechi, and told him a melancholy story of having lost the paper he had lately lent him. "Dont be uneasy," replied he, "call upon me to-morrow morning, and perhaps we shall be able to recover the lost sheep." He immediately retired to his chamber, and the next day produced an accurate copy of what he had read, without missing a single word, or even varying the method of spelling.

BON MOT.

A writer of no great celebrity, who published his works in 6 vols. 8vo. called one part of them, "Letters to Posterity." On reading the title of this part, a wit among his acquaintance said to him, "I fear, my friend, your letters will never reach the person to whom they are addressed.

ADVANCED STATE OF THE ARTS IN ASIA.

At the time that our ancestors were so deficient in mechanical skill, that Alfred was obliged to make use of candles to measure the time, the Persians imported into Europe a machine, which contained the first rudiments of a striking clock. It was brought as a present to Charlemagne, from Abdallah king of Persia, by two monks of Jerusalem, in the year 800. It is thus described by Eginhart who was an eyewitness of what he relates, and was also a skilful architect and well versed in the sciences. "Among other presents was an horologe of brass, wondrously constructed by some mechanical artifice, which during the course of twelve hours served as a time-piece, having twelve little brazen balls, which at the close of each hour dropped down on a sort of bells underneath, and sounded the end of the hour. There were also

twelve figures of horsemen, who, when the twelve hours were completed, filed out at twelve windows, which then stood open, and returning again shut the windows after them. He added that there were many other curiosities in this instrument, which would be tedious to recount.

IMPERIAL ETIQUETTE.

In the year 1683 John Sobieski king of Poland, with an inferior force defeated an army of 200,000 Turks near Vienna. After the battle, he was to be presented to the Emperor Leopold I. this prince called a council to deliberate on the manner in which an elected king should be received by an emperor. "In your answer said the Duke of Lorraine, with the most honest warmth, "he has preserved Europe, and saved the Empire from destruction." This advice was approved of. After a long consultation, Leopold ordered his chancellor to tell the king of Poland that it was not consistent with the dignity of the Emperor of Germany to offer him his hand when they met. His behaviour during the interview was conformable with this notice. He appeared in loose undress, and during the whole time spoke of nothing but the advantages he and his ancestors had conferred on the Polish nation. Sobieski answered with dignity mixed with ironical coolness, "I am glad that the Poles have been able to render you a trifling service in return. With these words, and a slight bow he left the unfeeling Emperor.

CHARGE TO A JURY.

The following is a specimen of the manner in which Jeffreys of infamous memory was accustomed to speak his judicial capacity: it is taken from a speech delivered by him in the city of Bristol—"I have brought a brush in my pocket to rub off your dirt; I tell you, I have brought a stout besom, with which I will sweep every man's door, within and without; for in good truth, you want rubbing; the dirt of your ditch is in your nostrils. Where am I? In Bristol, a city in which it seems you claim the privilege of hanging, drawing and quartering; a privilege which you ought to enjoy at least once:

month; I have a calendar of your
ty in my hands, and hope to hang
ie half of you at least.

HOW TO PREVENT REVOLUTION.

The following instance will serve
to show that though Louis XV. of
France had many failings, he did
not permit private feeling to interfere
with public duty. A prince of the
blood having disgraced himself by
abbery and murder in the streets
of Paris, was taken into custody,
tried and found guilty, but through
respect to his rank, a deputation from
the parliament waited on the king,
to inform him that they would not
pronounce sentence, until the royal
will had been declared. "And why
not gentlemen," said the king. The
resident replied, "the unhappy prince
as your Majesty's blood circulating
in his veins." "*It is become putrid,
and must be let out,*" was the king's
answer. Another of the deputies still
enturing to express a wish that the
offender might be pardoned, the
royal judge put an end to any further
application by pronouncing the fol-
lowing words in an elevated voice.
'Return without delay, and pronounce
your decree; for, by my hopes of
eternal salvation, and by the sacred
rust I hold from Almighty God, *he
should die if he were my only son.*'
The murderer was executed on a
scaffold in the court of the Chatelet,
in the early part of the 18th century.

THE ANSWER SUITED TO THE QUESTION.

A man went to a Derveish, and

proposed three questions; first, "why
do they say that God is omnipotent?
I do not see him in any place: show
me where he is." Second, "Why
is man punished for crimes, since
whatever he does proceeds from God?
Man has no free will; for he cannot
do any thing contrary to the will of
God; and if he had power, he would
do every thing for his own good." Third,
"How can God punish Satan
with hell-fire since he is formed of
that element? and what impression
can fire make on itself?" The Der-
veish took up a large clod of earth,
and struck him on the head with it.
The man went to the Cazy, and said,
"I proposed three questions to a
certain Derveish, who flung such a
clod at me, as has made my head
ache." The Cazy having sent for the
Derveish, asked, "why did you
strike this man with a clod, instead
of answering his questions?" The Der-
veish replied: "The clod of earth
was an answer to his speech. He
says, he has a pain in his head;
let him show it, and I will make
God visible to him. Why also does
he exhibit a complaint to you against
me? Whatever I did was the act of
God: I did not strike him without
the will of God. What power do I
possess. Moreover as he is compounded
of earth, how can he suffer pain from
that element?" The man was con-
founded, and the Cazy highly pleased
with the Derveish's answer.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ANALYSIS OF 1808 AND 1809.

Continued from No. VI.

Omne talis pectus qui miscuit stillo dulc.

SAGE Typographic Sirs, again I greet ye,
After so long a lapse, right glad to meet ye.
Pray how are all my sable * friends, your imps?
It will (I assure you) give me mighty pleasure
To find them safe at home, and free from t}zure
By Sir Vicary's vengeful-legal crimps.

Will they, with new-strung lyre resume the song?
And (quaintly singing as they go along,
"SPANIA ecce iterum"—"Abi desinit cursum")

* See Magazine for January, 1809, page 38.

Tell us of all the advances and retreats,
Fetted conquests, and confirm'd defeats.

Published by General—Monsi—and Central Juntas!

Will they most conscientiously compare
The monstrous lies of *Master Hookham Free*,
And tell us how in shape and form they chime
With facts, as brought to light by *Master Time*?
But at their napper's tisque let them—not tell
How MOORE, to *Marvish* clerks a victim fell.

Will they be able now to reconcile
A difference so great as this, that while
A British Army high in courage—high
In martial ardour aided them—then why
Did not that patriotic ardour show
That wood'rose valour 'gainst the common foe

Which now appears in ev'ry new report
Of every ship from every Spanish port?

"Lord, sir! tis plain as light"—your imps will say,
When Britons fought,—the Spaniards ran away;
And if the truth was known, so do they still.
But * * * * * no truth will tell.

Infants of Koster, can you now declare
The likely issue of this Spanish war?

"The issue of this war"—the clif will say—
"We are not prophets, sir—mere syphas—mere
slaves,

Performing always what our interest craves,
And as seems meet—we either fight or pray;
But on this axiom all our skill we cast—
Still judge of future events by the past."

Well now, of Sweden will you deign to speak?
Or take of its mad king a solemn view,
One hundred thousand pounds a month at stake,
And where's the good that's likely to ensue?
Shade of *Adolphus—Vasa's* shade appear,

On your distracted country cast one look,
Oh may your voice and counsel still be near
The hope of Sweden, *Sudermania's* Duke.

And, maugre foreign gold—let warfare cease.
Say to each maddening faction—peace—peace—
peace!

Now I might call you idle, dirty ve rmin,
Short-sighted thieves, and scant of all discerning,
Who broach'd not even once, a thing so plain
As *Nap's* destruction—*Bonaparte's* ruin,
His empire overturn'd by—his misleading,
Vent'ring with Austria to make this campaign.

Your thieves again will say, "Lord, sir, in war
Every rapscallion passes us by far;
Ours is the art of harmony and peace.

Now, for the love of God, deal justly by us,
And with a civil question fairly try us,
Suppose the *orgies of Gloucester-place*."

To them I thus reply, What signifies
The filthy Jacobinic Cambrian lies,
Which did appear the Committee before,
"Twould make an honest, loyal Christian *****
To hear thus blazon'd forth a *Royal Duke*
As a co-partner with a common *****

By way of interlude, when things look bad,
And nought of consolation can be had;
When *Austrian bulletins* have run too long,
And coming near the dregs, taste sour and hard,
Give us to catch the eye and claim regard
Of *Catalani the accouchement!*

Now swell your lungs and make a noise,
And tell about St. Stephen's boys.
Or, rather tell about St. Stephen's hall,
And from the cases of your hidden store
Tip us a sample of historic lore,
Which will inform, and eke—astonish all.

Of William Rufus now most loudly sing,
That sober, self-will'd, chaste, domestic king,

When wishing to atone for some great crime
By him committed, built this solid fane
A few years after he began to reign,
In the year of—I cannot tell the time,
And stock'd it well with jolly monks and friars,
A noisy, prating, babbling pack of liars.

And in this chapel, as sage *Horwell*† tells,
Were (plac'd by Rufus) three enormous bells,
Which only rung on coronation days,
Triumphs, and funerals, as the legend says:
But when they rung, so awful was the sound,
It sour'd the drink for many miles around.

Alas! long since these bells have ceas'd to toll,
But in their stead (have mercy on his soul)
A human bell—I think I hear it yet,
Within this chapel rung—its name was *Pitt*,
And so tremendous was its triple roar,
It rais'd the price of drink, as well as made it sour.

Stop, stop, in God's name, sure we have enough
About St. Stephen's chapel, and such stuff.
Now quit your cases, and skip into form;
Put on a look sedate, demure, and grave,
And having done so, may I humbly crave
That you will tell us something of Reform.

Reform, and gravity—sure, sir, you jest,
Whate'er is best administer'd is best;

Have you not read so, and will you not grant
That *Percival* deserves great praise, so far
As asking no new taxes for the war.

If this don't please you, tell us what you want.

And then that gentle stripling Castlereagh,
Will it not please you when you hear him say,
That, "pon my honor, sir, I did intend
Against the constitution to offend.

Yet *conummation* not being in my power,
I'm innocent and pure as any flower."

Edentacula,
25th May, 1839.

CALDERONE.

(To be continued.)

† See *Londinopolis*, a book written by Mowell.

SONNET TO THE RED-BREAST.

RED-BREAST, I love thy moralizing
song,

Pour'd at my window on my waken'd ear,
When hoary winter leads his blasts along,
And leafy tenants fill the inverted year.

Methinks thus speaks thy vocal minstrelsy,
Swift fly the Halcyon months on rapid
wing;

Mute all the harmonious songsters of the
skv,

The friend of man, lo! I am left to sing!
Gay Olmmer's glare ill suits thy state and
mind,

Winter's grave livery virtue better loves,
The day is short, employ the early prime,
To mark the good the conscious mind ap-
proves.

So sweetly pass the golden hours along,
 "To meditation due, and sacred song."
 S.

ODE TO SPRING.

AT thy approach, O genial Spring,
 The birds a parting requiem sing
 To winter's gloomy reign,
 Thou com'st arrayed in vernal green,
 The graces and the loves are seen,
 Attendant in thy train.

Thy soothing influence spreads around,
 With chearful songs the woods resound,
 Which echo through the grove ;
 The tuneful thrush with varying note,
 The blackbird strains its little throat,
 And sweetly sings his love.

Hark! 'tis the stock-dove's plaintive moan;
 The cuckoo with unchanging tone,
 The smiling season hail,
 The sparrow chirrups through the brake,
 And now we hear the constant creak
 Of yonder busy rail.

The snow-drop from its grassy bed,
 First-born of spring, uprears its head,
 In vest of purest white,
 The primrose next of sickly hue,
 The violet's ethereal blue,
 Attracts the wanderer's sight.

Thick scattered like a shower of hail,
 The daisy variegates the vale,
 O'er nature's carpet spread,
 The daffodil of bolder size,
 Does towering o'er the herbage rise,
 And proudly rears its head.

The garden now with fragrance blows,
 Though neither pink nor blushing rose,
 To grace the scene appears,
 The wall-flower sips the morning dew,
 The auricula of various hue
 A motley livery wears.

The attempt to paint each flower is vain,
 Which spring has scattered o'er the plain,
 And spread with liberal hand ;
 May heaven the year with plenty crown,
 And on the wings of peace send down,
 Protection to this land.

Thou god of seasons, thy controul
 Pervades, invigorates the whole,
 Thou dost thy blessings pour ;
 Thou sendest summer's vernal bloom,
 Presidest o'er the wintry gloom
 And autumn's yellow store. LYDIA.

THE FATHER TO HIS BABE.

WELCOME, welcome, beauteous babe!
 O thrice welcome to my sight!
 Pleas'd I greet thy opening eyes,
 Like thy mother's, azure bright.

Lovely infant, angel mild,
 Pledge of purest, fondest flame,
 BELFAST MAG. NO. X.

Little sweet! I'll honour thee,
 With our worthy parent's name.
 Cherub, Helen!—on that breast,
 Glad I see thee soft recline,
 O was mortal e'er so blest!
 O! what happiness is mine!

ELIZABETH.

THE RISING SUN.

YOU view the rising sun,
 Shedding round his glowing light ;
 Already has his course begun,
 But soon! ah soon! 'twill sink in night.

Fair Aurora cheers the skies,
 In her robe of saffron dress,
 Each fleeting cloud before her flies,
 Each warbling songster leaves its nest.

Sweetly they salute the morn,
 While they carol on each spray;
 The white buds blossom on the thorn,
 And Grief* rolls silently away.

The violet does its sweets disclose,
 The primrose blooms in modest shade ;
 Why withers now the lovely rose,
 That late its painted bloom display'd?

So, short lived beauty, dost thou fly,
 And leav'st each maiden to her fate,
 Thy transient roses fade and die,
 But steadier virtue keeps her seat,

FLORELLA.

* A small river in the county of Kildare.

SELECTED POETRY.

THE FOLLOWING ELEGANT POETICAL ARTI-
 CLE FROM THE PEN OF W. ROSCOE, HAS
 LATELY APPEARED IN THE ATHENÆUM :
 WE VENTURE TO GIVE IT AS A TREAT TO
 OUR READERS.

THE BUTTERFLY'S BIRTH-DAY.
 BY THE AUTHOR OF THE " BUTTERFLY'S
 BALL."

THE shades of night were scarcely fled ;
 The air was mild, the winds were still ;
 And slow the slanting sun-beams spread,
 O'er wood and lawn, o'er heath and hill.

From fleecy clouds of pearly hue
 Had dropt a short but balmy shower,
 That hung like gems of morning dew,
 On every tree and every flower.

And from the blackbird's mellow throat,
 Was poured so loud and long a swell,
 As echoed with responsive note,
 From mountain's side and shadowy dell.

When bursting forth to life and light,
 The offspring of enraptured May,
 The BUTTERFLY on pinions bright,
 Launch'd in full splendor on the day.

ASA

Unconscious of a mother's care,
No infant wretchedness she knew;
But as she felt the vernal air,
At once to full perfection grew.

Her slender form, ethereal light,
Her velvet textured wings enfold,
With all the rainbow's colours bright,
And dropt with spots of burnish'd gold.

Trembling with joy awhile she stood,
And felt the sun's enlivening ray;
Drank from the skies the vital flood,
And wondered at her plumage gay.

And balanc'd oft her "broidered wings,
Through fields of air prepared to sail,
Then on her vent'rous journey springs,
And floats along the rising gale.

Go, child of pleasure, range the fields,
Taste all the joys that spring can give,
Partake what bounteous summer yields,
And live whilst yet 'tis thine to live.

Gossip the rose's fragrant dew,
The lily's honied cup explore;
From flower to flower the search renew,
And ride all the woodbine's store.

And let me trace thy vagrant flight,
Thy moments too of short repose,
And mark thee then with fresh delight,
Thy golden pinions ope and close.

But hark! whilst thus I musing stand,
Pours on the gale an airy note,
And breathing from a viewless band,
Soft silvery tones around me float!

They cease—but still a voice I hear,
A whisper'd voice of hope and joy,
"Thy hour of rest approaches near,
Prepare thee mortal!—thou must die!"

"Yet start not—on thy closing eyes
Another day shall still unfold,
A sun of milder radiance rise,
A happier age of joys untold.

"Shall the poor worm that shocks thy
sight,

The humblest form in nature's train,
Thus rise in new born lustre bright,
And yet the emblem teach in vain?

"Ah where were once her golden eyes,
Her glittering wings of purple pride?
Conceal'd beneath a rude disguise,
A shapeless mass to earth allied.

"Like thee the hapless reptile liv'd,
Like thee he toil'd, like thee he spun,
Like thine his closing hour arriv'd,
His labours ceas'd, his web was done.

"And shalt thou, number'd with the dead,
No happier state of being know?
And shall no future morrow shed,
On thee a beam of brighter glow?

"Is this the bound of power divine,
To animate an insect frame;
Or shall not he who moulded thine,
Wake at his will the vital flame?

"Go, mortal! in thy reptile state,
Enough to know to thee is given;
Go, and he joyful truth relate;
Frail child of earth, high heir of heaven!"

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Speech of Henry Brougham, esq. before the House of Commons, Friday, April 1, 1808, in support of the Petitions from London, Liverpool and Manchester, against the Orders in Council. Taken in Short-hand by Mr. A. Frazer. London, printed by J. M'Creech, for J. Ridgway, Piccadilly; 1808. p. p. 84.

Continued from p. 305, No. IX.

LET us see the effects which the British Orders produced, as well on the rates of insurance, as in cutting off the resources of the American trade with the continent of Europe, which flowed into Britain to pay for her manufactures: which mischief was effected by the act and deed of the Government at home, and not by the Berlin decree, or American embargo.

"Now, I may be allowed to allude on this branch of the case to the real and permanent variation that has at length taken place in the rate of insurance. It is now nothing extravagant, nor is it any misrepresentation, as it formerly was, to state that a great and steady rise has taken place in the premium. The witnesses, to whose evidence I formerly referred on this point, concur in stating, that a permanent rise has now taken place in the rate of insurance from this country to America, and back again, although not a considerable one: but that a great rise has taken place upon the insurance of neutral vessels bound from this country to the continent. Instead of doing it at six guineas, the premium now demanded is thirty-five guineas; and it appears from the evidence of Mr

White (an insurance broker, largely concerned in trade to the Continent—a smuggling trade, of which his answers lead us to believe that this witness knows a good deal more than he is willing to tell you) that he goes upon the 'change offering upwards of 35. per cent to insure American vessels to Amsterdam, but that it cannot be done; in short, that this trade is as good as finished. The British clause has shared the same fate. That clause which formerly used to be valued at two or three guineas, by which an American was accustomed to be insured against the effects of British capture, costs now more than ninety guineas; in short, no British clause can now be under-written. So different is an English naval decree from a French one in its execution and effects! It is only for the purpose of showing this wide difference that I mention the fact. The French decree has been foolishly and falsely said to have raised the rate of insurance from two to three guineas, while the English ones, it is evident, have actually raised it from two to ninety guineas; and it is well known that at that rate nothing can be done.—Although the trade to the continent continued to go on in spite of the enemy's decrees, yet it would appear that the English orders in council are not of so little avail; they have at once cut up by the roots, the whole commerce of the country; they will not permit American vessels to go direct to France, nor to other parts of the continent, for they have created a refusal to under-write the risque of such a voyage; and this proves that it is one and the same thing for us to issue and to enforce our edicts, against our own trade; which France cannot touch a ton of by all her decrees.

"Sir, I have shown that the trade between America and the continent, is quite as essential to this country, as it is to America, inasmuch as we must lose two thirds of our payments the moment it ceases. But I must now remark that it is impossible we should get even that third part of our payment which remains, if the orders in council and the measures arising out of them continue to be

acted upon. Mr. Bell says that as long as those orders subsist he may ship goods to America to the amount of the direct payment which comes over in American produce, but that this produce will be deprived of nine-tenths of its value; and therefore instead of continuing to trade to the amount of even one third, we cannot trade to the amount of the thirtieth or the three hundredth part of what we formerly did; for, unless we chose to be paid in tobacco, which will lose nearly all its value, or cotton which will lose its whole value, or any thing else of no earthly use or worth, we have no prospect of continuing, even to the sorry amount of one third part, our former trade to America. Therefore, sir, I say that in every point of view in which we can look at this new system of commercial regulation, we see but one effect, namely, that of ruining and cutting off, root and branch, the whole of our traffic with the United States of America, or in other words, I may say, the whole of our foreign trade.

"An attempt has been made to impute this stoppage of the trade with America, not to our orders in council, but to the American embargo and non-importation act; and now I entreat the attention of the house while I endeavour to show that there is no reason whatever for imputing this failure to the American embargo. The evidence of Mr. Martin was directed to this purpose. After having explained that the orders for the spring shipment were generally as good as finished before the middle of January each year, it is only necessary for me to state that the news of the embargo did not reach those parts of the country likely to be affected by it before the middle of January; so that the orders for the last spring shipments could never have been touched by it. Mr. Martin states that it was previous to the 26th of the month of January that all shipments ought to have been prepared, or orders given, and that the defalcation for the last shipment had entirely taken place before that date. That defalcation amounted nearly to the whole extent; and he leaves you

to draw the inference, that it could have been owing solely to the orders in council. This gentleman having visited the town of Birmingham since the orders in council had been issued, and having inquired how the shipments there had been affected by them, he found they were doing nothing and meant to do nothing in regard to spring shipments.

"The testimony of Mr. James Palmer informs you that instead of paying to his workmen 200*l.* per week, he was under the necessity of reducing it to 50*l.* from November, though he only learnt the news of the Embargo in January.—With this short statement of that part of the case, I leave it to you, sir, to answer the question whether it be possible to confound by reason or ingenuity, or even by assertion (which has been so much more lavishly used than any thing else on the other side) to confound the effects of the American measures and our own.

"It would appear, sir, that without any evidence at all, one simple consideration is enough to show in what manner the orders in council, crossing, as Mr. Bell aptly expressed it, the French decrees, must have ruined our commerce with foreign parts, not only interrupting our trade with America, but also cutting off that great contraband trade which used formerly to be carried on through the Americans, between us and our enemies—softening the hardships of war, and making them fall as lightly upon us as on the enemy—on us to whom trade is every thing, as on him who, having little or none of his own, was most deeply interested in surrendering his share, could he but hope thereby to take from us ours.

"This short and summary view of the measure, even without the aid of the statement so satisfactorily set forth in the evidence before you, will, I trust, prove sufficiently decisive to entitle me to leave this branch of the argument without one further comment, and to affirm that I have completely demonstrated a proposition, at first sight rather paradoxical, that England has, by her own measures, effectually, strictly, *vigorously*, counter-signed the enemy's edict."

Our author next proceeds to point

out that the orders in council actually produced the embargo.

"In the second examination of Mr. Glennie, he states, that it was a perfectly well known fact, upon the Exchange of London, amongst mercantile men, a few days before the issuing of the Orders, that some strong measures would be taken by the government of the country to that effect; that this was matter of general and confident expectation; and particularly on the Saturday before many persons did pretend to give the details, which afterwards appeared in the gazette. So perfectly was he convinced of it, from all he heard, that on the 22d. of October he wrote to several of his correspondents in America, that a strong measure was to be adopted by the government of this country, which in all probability would, in some degree, affect the trade between America, this Country, and the Continent. He further states that these orders, when they did come forth, appeared to be pretty much of the nature that was expected. He does not say they were accurately of the nature looked for; this he could not presume to say—for the petitioners themselves tell you that they do not yet fully understand them. They only know this, that as far as they possibly can judge of their effects they tend to ruin their trade. Neither they nor Mr. Glennie have as yet a precise and distinct knowledge of them, with all their various clashing enactments, and the multitude of alterations and retouches they have undergone. Therefore their anticipation of the measure itself could not be very distinct. It was however with safety pronounced by Mr. Glennie and other witnesses, to be much of the same nature with the measure as it eventually came out. Upon this subject, Mr. Mann concurs in corroborating what Mr. Glennie had stated; and mentions a set of cant phrases which were in people's mouths on the subject, disrespectful to the United States, and which I will not repeat. Mr. Mullett tells you that many mercantile men, within his own knowledge, regulated their transactions in their trade, by similar confident expectations

generally entertained a few weeks before the Orders came out, and communicated their feelings to him and to their correspondents according to those apprehensions."

"Now sir, if this news was so generally and so confidently circulated in this country, it is not surprising that it should have found its way across the Atlantic while the intercourse still subsisted with America. Accordingly it appears from the evidence of Mr. Martin, and Mr. Kinder, that it did so travel. Mr. Martin tells you, that on the 12th of November, he wrote a circular letter to his American correspondents, which letter was received on the 12th or 13th of December, but he believed the 12th; in this he stated, "it is strongly reported that it is the intention of our government to extend the system of blockade to France, and the respective States on the Continent under her influence, prohibiting from entrance into any of their ports, all vessels whatever, unless such as have last cleared from Great Britain and her dependencies." Mr. Martin has since received advice that one of the vessels by which the circular letter went, arrived on the 12th, or not later than the 13th of December. He tells you that the act of the embargo was issued on the 22d of December. Besides this, newspapers were produced and extracts read from them, particularly by Mr. Kinder, to show the various copies circulated in America of the paragraphs which appeared in this country, stating the confident expectation of those measures in England and describing pretty accurately what those measures were to be. One of these descriptions indeed is so accurate, that I believe there has not been, even to this hour, a much more correct general outline given to the public of the system in question, than this which thus appeared in a newspaper printed at New York, and dated the 15th of December.—Again, on the 14th of November, it appears that Mr. Munroe left this country, and he arrived at Philadelphia the 14th of December, on which day he is secretly set out for Washington, and arrived there previous to the

17th. The New York paper to which I have alluded, stated that the "English government have not issued their proclamation declaring France and her dependencies in a state of siege, and prohibiting all intercourse with them, except directly from a British port, it not having received the signature of the king; a private letter from a Member of Parliament mentions that it would be published in the gazette of the 14th." In like manner a Philadelphia newspaper says, "a proclamation is, we understand, in readiness for his Majesty's signature, declaring France and all her vassal kingdoms in a state of siege, and prohibiting all intercourse with her or them; all entrance into her or their harbours, except such as had last cleared from a British port." This is an extract from a London newspaper, dated November 10 and Mr. Bell has also one of the 18th, from New York, purporting to be an extract from a Liverpool paper of the 13th of November. It states, "an Order of Council is in the gazette of Tuesday last, declaring the whole of the ports of France, Italy and Holland, and all under the influence of France, in a state of blockade, and which will be rigorously enforced. I have stated that Mr. Munroe's Secretary arrived at Washington on the 16th or 17th of December, and upon the 20th, a message comes from the President to the Houses of Congress upon the subject of this strange intelligence. They sit for many hours and deliberate with closed doors.—Upon the 22d of December, late at night, it was, and not till then, that the embargo upon American vessels was first issued as a legal measure.—Here then we see, sir, that the Orders in Council, or something very nearly resembling them (so near indeed that when we have got the Orders themselves, we have had nothing more illustrative given us as a sketch of the spirit of them) were accurately known by the President, and by the Congress of the United States of America, upon the 18th of December, being three days previous to the issuing of the embargo in the American ports. This is the plain matter of date and fact.—If it be said

that this measure of embargo was adopted suddenly (a charge which I think cannot be attributed to it) I answer that if it was to be done at all, it behoved to be effected with vigour and promptitude, the very moment the government of that country perceived it was called for by the measures which we had adopted. As soon as this unexampled attack upon their navigation, and encroachment upon their privileges was known—nay, the instant that this unheard of aggression was suspected to be in our contemplation, the United States were obliged, not to resent it, indeed,—for it had not yet attacked them—but at least to provide against its certain effects, by some measure of precaution. Therefore, I say, let it not be argued that the suddenness of this precautionary measure—a measure in its very nature sudden and applicable to an unexpected and pressing emergency—affords any ground for believing that the Orders in Council were not the occasion of it.”

We now come to the statement brought forward to demonstrate the capabilities of America becoming a manufacturing country, aided by British capital, necessarily detained in that country, for want of a mode of remittance, by sending produce to the British or European continental market. The present restrictions give a high premium in favour of American manufactures, and must, if the present system be persisted in afford to them most decisive support. We particularly recommend to our readers a close attention to the accounts of American resources here given. It may tend to remove many dangerous prejudices. The physical strength of America was formerly despised in these countries, and yet they triumphed by the establishment of their independence. A second act of the same tragedy or farce, appears to be now in rehearsal, and it depends in great measure on the wisdom or folly of British statesmen, how the present momentous crisis will terminate. Whether instructed by former errors, they will learn to relax in time, or by a pertinacious adherence to ill-concerted, and ill digested plans,

finish the chapter of “All in the Wrong.” We sincerely lament the unfriendly disposition, and the symptoms of hostility so frequently manifested both in conversation, and through the medium of the press, in the countries, towards the United States and dread this issue will be productive of no good to our best interest.

“Let us look then to the consequences of this state of things. Your capital, to this amount of eight millions, must remain in the United States; but whether it is to remain there idle or not is another consideration. Will Congress, for the sake of giving encouragement to trade and manufactures, make some enactments in the nature of your orders in council? Will they, after the manner of those precious measures, prohibit manufactures, embargo their towns, and stop the internal commerce of the country, by warnings and visitings? Will they as you would, verily believe, in their place, issue some twenty orders to lock up the capital, which I have stated England has made them a present of, and prevent its being employed until the intercourse with Europe is restored? No, no—they will not copy you so close—they will give their trade and manufactures every facility—they are rather better politicians than the wise framers of your decrees—they will foster this capital and make it conduce to truly beneficial ends, not by such orders in council as yours, but by measures really adapted to the encouragement of trade, aye, and let me tell you, sir, to the purpose of “retorting upon England the evils of her own injustice.” For you will see this capital producing new branches of agriculture and of internal trade; new banking and other moneyed schemes; new manufactures, which have never before been thought of, for this plain and simple reason, because their capital was never adequate to the arduous task, and what little capital they had found other means of employment in purchasing the produce and manufactures of our country.

“The contrary of all this, however, is confidently expected by those great statesmen, who framed the orders in council. They pretend that our ma-

factures never can be supplanted; they must be had by all nations; it happens what will they must find their way to a market. And truly must say that this would be a comfortable doctrine if it were not readily falsified by much experience: not only by the effects of commercial wars in other countries, but by the operation of our own navigation laws, a produce of wiser and better laws; a measure well deserving the title of encourager of trade. The effect of this celebrated system upon the trade of Holland and other States, could admonish you, that it is possible for the staple industry of a country to be taken from it, and to be forced into other channels. The carrying trade of the world, the money traffic, all its branches, insurance, banking, loans, stock, in short, every part of the large commerce which the Dutch had monopolized for ages, and with pretensions as superior to your's, your present claims to a monopoly of manufacturing industry are above those of your neighbours; all this ample and exclusive commerce was, not destroyed, at least shaken to pieces by an act of the really wise, and effectual promoters of English trade, who once sat in this house, and England became prematurely possessed of what Holland lost. The staple of Holland was thus suddenly forced into the channel of England, many years before the transference could have been effected in the natural course of things. Let us then learn from that encouragement which it is the just boast of our own navigation system to have given to our commerce, this lesson of experience, that it is not impossible to counteract nature and shift the seat of arts, by the force of political arrangements. I might prove this still further by the effects of another boasted part of your commercial policy, the wool laws.—I might illustrate it by referring to the whole histories of Spain, France, Italy, or to former periods of our history. But, sir, not to go to other countries, upon the present occasion, it is sufficient for me to allude to the evidence which I have brought your bar, bearing directly upon the case of America.

"The testimony of Mr. Kinder and Mr. Pollock will, I think, be esteemed decisive upon this point. It has always been supposed that when hands are cheap, and money plenty, commerce and trade will be encouraged, and not till then; but let it be remembered that America has been both increasing in hands with an unexampled rapidity, and accumulating money by the beneficial effects of a long interval of peace, which she has wisely and happily enjoyed. The public institutions, the manufactories, and the plans for the general encouragement to trade, have in that country been for years past visibly upon the increase. Their banks at present amount to 73; their insurance companies to 43; the interest of money has fallen from 12 or 20, to 6 and 7 per cent; capital is so heaped up, that it is common to meet thirty men possessed of £50,000, on one exchange. Four miles from any town, lands were two years ago sold at 500 dollars by the acre, a much higher price than is known in Middlesex itself. An emigration has been of late years perceived to take place from the Northern to the Western part of the country, where the land is cheaper. Nay, they have even a considerable number of manufactories already established, they have, upon some occasions, been able to export to other countries, and have so evidently begun their own market, that some of the witnesses at your bar, found themselves cut out of it by the competition of home-made goods. The result of the whole is, that we have given up a part of our capital for the purpose of enabling the Americans to establish trades and manufactures of their own, and that if we continue to force it into this employment, by our foolish measures, we shall soon find ourselves generally and permanently forestalled in the American market by their home-made goods.

"I am far from saying, sir, that these unquestionable facts ought to alarm this country, if measures be taken really capable of fostering our own trade, or at least leaving our industry to itself, and letting that of others alone, instead of those schemes, whose only tendency is to

stunt our commerce and make American manufactures emulate our own. I only prove that it is in vain to talk of this competition as a thing impossible.—I tell you that it is blind to say there is no such danger.—It is foolish to say that the poverty and cheap land of America will prevent all rivalry from growing up, do what we will to force it.—I tell you it is an idle security to suppose that our preference in the American market is of so steady a nature, and will be of such lasting duration, that no force or change of circumstances can wrest it from us. By the testimony of those who have visited that part of the world, and but yesterday seen the most interesting spectacle of a growing nation, that the eyes of man can behold, it appears that its manufactories are rising, and its capital accumulating. In addition to this it appears by the evidence now upon your table, that you have forced no less than eight millions of your capital into the same channel, in order, as it were, to secure—to perpetuate the rivalry of America, and while you exclude her from all intercourse with Europe, to render her more and more independent of yourselves. It is surely not unreasonable to suppose that under such circumstances she will turn the part of your capital which you have lent her, nay compelled her to keep in her hands, into channels which may subvert our traffic both with her and the rest of the world.

“Again, I beseech you, sir, to recollect that I do not say America will do all this naturally; if left to herself she may for years and years confine herself to agricultural pursuits; but I have shown you her capacities for other employments; I have proved that she is even on the brink of manufacturing in a good measure for herself; I say she will do so to any extent if you drive her to it; and I here again warn you how you rashly do that against your own commerce, which no power on earth but yours can ever effect.—Nor let any one think that the rivalry, which I am anticipating, would terminate with the emergency that gave rise to it. Even after that peace should be restored, which some persons fondly

dream of as a possible event, it is vain that you will look for the re-establishment of those peaceful and prosperous employments which former treaties have brought back to the country. The whole Continent may be subdued by the arms of your allies, and its commerce destroyed by your fleets; you may cease to have a rival in power, or in wealth from one extremity to the other of Europe.—After dictating a peace to the world, you will seek in vain for the restoration of the trade which your vigour shall have suspended, if it is destroyed if it is suspended. You will find raised up by you jealousy and violence, a rival to your prosperity, on the other side of the Atlantic—a great nation, filled full of capital by your measures, and forced by them to be the first manufacturers in the world. You will then no doubt be immediately repaid those eight millions sterling which the Americans now owe you, for it is a common and a just remark, that successful traffic produces honest dealing. But what will be the consequence of having allowed that capital to accumulate, at compound interest, by its employment in such channels? Let us think of this, sir, and look to all these things when we are confiding in our own folly, and blindly hoping that in wilfully cutting ourselves out of every one line of industry, which has made us a rich and powerful nation, we shall still, God knows how, preserve our influence and wealth!

“Sir, it is not now for the first time that this topic has been broached in the House of Commons. The very same argument was once before put to you upon a memorable occasion. In the spot where I unworthily have now the honour to stand before you, there stood some forty years ago, one of the greatest men that this or any other country has ever produced. When the celebrated Dr. Franklin appeared in this place, by the desire of the house, during the discussion relating to the repeal of the stamp act, a variety of questions were put to him, touching the state of manufactures in the colonies of England. He was carefully asked his opinion

upon all those points which I have feebly attempted to examine on the present occasion. It was put to him again and again.—“Do you think it possible that the Americans can enter into a non-importation act? Is it possible for them to change their habits altogether and at once,—from political motives?”—The answers of that great man were equally consistent and decisive, and if the house will permit me I shall take the liberty of reading them, as they are in fact good evidence upon the question now before you, the whole being entered on your journals.—And I call upon you to hear them with the attention due, not merely to the authority of him who spoke them, but to a prophecy despised, and alas too fatally fulfilled. Therefore it is that I presume to repeat what was then told you, and to caution you against giving the cause of the petitioners now at your bar the same unhappy reception.

“One of the questions put to Dr. Franklin was this, “Is it the interest of the Americans to take those goods?” (meaning the produce and manufactures of this country.) He answered, “The goods they take from Britain are either necessities, mere conveniences, or superfluities. The first, as cloth, &c. with a little industry, they can make at home; the second they can do without till they are able to provide them among themselves; and the last, which are much the greatest part, they will strike off immediately. They are mere articles of fashion purchased and consumed, because the fashion in a respected country, but will now be detested and rejected. The people have already struck off, by general agreement, the use of all goods fashionable in mournings, and many thousand pounds worth are sent back as unsaleable.”—Again, “Is it their interest to make cloth at home?” “I think,” said Dr. Franklin, “they may at present get it cheaper from Britain, I mean of the same fineness and neatness of workmanship, but when one considers other circumstances, the restraints on their trade, and the difficulties of making remittances, it is their interest to make every thing.”—In another part Dr. Franklin was asked, “What are the

body of the people in the colonies?”

A. “They are farmers, husbandmen, or planters.”—Q. “Would they suffer the produce of their land to rot?” A. “No: but they would not raise so much. They would manufacture more and plough less.”—

“And so it is that *these petitioners* say the Americans will now do. They know that the Americans are chiefly occupied in pursuits of husbandry, because they are furnished by America with the produce which they manufacture for that country, for this country, and for all the world: they know that if you continue to stop the trade of the Americans with the Continent, and consequently with ourselves, so as to throw the produce back upon the hands of the growers, it will not rot any more than it would have done in Dr. Franklin’s day; they tell you the Americans will keep their cotton if you prevent them from exporting it, and will work it up; they—these petitioners presume to repeat the language of that illustrious man, and tell you the Americans will manufacture more and plough less.—I’m concluding sentences of this memorable testimony are all that I shall now trouble the house with.

2. “What used to be the pride of the Americans?”

A. “To indulge in the fashions and manufactures of Great Britain.”

2. “What is now their pride?”

A. “To wear their old clothes again till they can make new ones.”

“Sir, it is the fate of men, that they are more prone to take lessons from their own experience than from precept, or even from the example of others, but I will venture to say that it is the *experience* of this country, to which I am now appealing—an experience too recent to be forgotten, too momentous—alas, that we should dare to neglect such lessons! This it is that has so powerfully backed the authority of the great name which I have quoted to you; and thus supported, I devoutly wish it may make you more cautious how you reject these petitioners than your predecessors were, within the same walls, when that gloomy prediction was first offered at your bar, and was by them, I tell you, despised because of its gloominess.”

We conclude our extracts from this

interesting work by quoting the cogent reasoning and forcible ridicule adduced against the flowery oratory of our Secretary for Foreign Affairs, an oratory which he has since used in his diplomatic correspondence with the agents of the American government, which instead of convincing or conciliating, has tended only to irritate, and we fear, to widen the breach. The slipshod style of a political Anti Jacobin Reviewer, is ill adapted to the grave and sober discussion between states, on great and momentous concerns.

"In answer to all our arguments, and in order to quiet the fears that are manifestly spreading over the country, we are told that the operation of the Orders in Council will put an end to the unnatural state of things which the enemy has established upon the Continent, and will force open the channels of trade now stopped up by him. If any thing in the possible consequences of these measures could give your petitioners a shadow of expectation that the ports of the Continent would be opened; and that the direct trade with it would again be established, most unquestionably, as they would have been the last to trouble you, had any such hopes remained to them, so they would even now leave your bar contented and cheerful, if you could, by any proof or argument, give a colour of truth to such pleasing prospects. But when they look to the history of the conquest of Europe, and to its present state, or view what is indeed, the same thing, the events of the French revolution, they can indulge in no such views.—After resisting so many violent shocks from without, and so many convulsions within—after passing through every sort of revolution—all the varieties of situation—uniform in nothing except the constant increase of calamity, public and domestic—after having suffered all this without attempting a complaint, or even breathing a murmur against the tyrant of the hour—when faction was raging in the West, and the enemy not always beaten in the East—after such scenes as these, and such incitements to rebellion utterly failed to create, during eighteen years of revolution, a whisper that could be heard from the people—I say, after all this,

you desire us to expect that the scarcity of sugar, or a rise in the price of tobacco, or the difficulty of procuring cotton, should throw all France into a flame—bring out the seeds of hurking rebellion—draw forth the population of our enemies in array against their ruler—make them with one loud voice demand the revocation of the Berlin decree—and force the governor of France himself to sue for peace.—That such mighty things should arise from such little causes I am far from pronouncing to be impossible; but I lament that I have been quite unable to make my clients agree with me, or, by any such efforts, to comfort them under the ruin of their affairs, which they never cease proving to me by the dry details of their ledgers and day-books, as often as I unfold to them the pleasing views to which I have been alluding; nor indeed can I find any one to back me in urging such consolation to them.

"The petitioners have further been told by some persons of airy fancy and loud talk, that by this great act of self-denial, (a magnanimity considerably cheaper to those who preach it up, than to the poor petitioners who are desired to practice it) we shall assuredly make known in the most remote corners of the earth (even in places where the form of a ship has never yet been seen*) the power and the glories of the British Navy. It seems, that in proportion as sugars become higher in price, or as the people on the continent find their coffee becoming rougher, the gallant form of a vessel shall begin to dawn on their untutored minds. Growing by degrees more distinct, what ideas must it raise, as the sweets vanish? When at last the coffee too disappears, and the peasant wholly changes his breakfast of foreign luxuries into one of milk or wine, then indeed will he descrie our whole fleets and navies, and tremble at the name of England—and thus shall the enslaved people of the continent speedily revolt against the

* This is supposed to allude to the eloquent speech of Mr. Secretary Canning, in which he recommended the orders in council as a great and promising experiment; and predicted that this curious effect would result from them.

yoke of France.—This topic of consolation, sir, I have also tried with my clients. But I have been again met with their plaguy account books and dry details of profit and loss. They tell me bluntly enough, "All these fine fancies are nothing to us if they do not give us back our American market, which has by the grand measures of government been taken away. We ask back our traffic,—our buying and selling, our livelihood. We are plain men—merchants, manufacturers, and workmen—and we care not if one half of Europe never heard of the British Navy, nor knew there was such a thing as a ship—nay, nor knew there was such a country as England—provided that half were consuming our produce and wearing our manufactures. Let the British Navy and name be as unknown in the heart of Poland as it is in the deserts of Kamschatka—but, for pity's sake, give us back that trade, the sole means of our subsistence—the sole object of our desires—the only thing our literal imaginations ever dream about."

"Sir, I greatly fear, that dull as it may be, you must give these men some other answer to their complaints than the lively and elegant ones which I have been alluding to. I strongly suspect you must, in order to satisfy the people, make out some case for the new measures which shall be adapted to the grovelling capacities of the nine hundred and ninety-nine plain matter of fact men who inhabit the country, whatever flighty things you may hear from the thousandth wit.—For unhappily our customers on the continent have fallen under the dominion of a matter of fact man, who works with stubborn tools, and won't suffer his vassals to rebel for the sake of a point. *He* does not rule them by the love of sugar and coffee, and indeed cares little whether the interesting peasants ever see such things or no. *He* does not leave them to form ideas of a French soldier, by raising the prices of goods, "in places where a soldier was never seen."—*He* chains them with chains, and drives them on with bayonets—and sends half a million of strong men to execute his orders—and having done so, he troubles himself but little what his vassals say about colonial produce—or what orders

you issue from your council, even if you should make them as intelligible as his own."

We trust that some of our readers will not be displeased with the length of these quotations. The subject is important, and we fear many treat it too lightly. As in similar cases, some may suppose that America is of no further importance, than to be made subservient to our selfish interests. The haughtiness and selfishness of Britain is a favourite theme on the continent of Europe, and turns the tide of popularity against us. Let us be wise in time. America may be conciliated, but cannot for any great length of time be bullied by us. In our humble capacities we wished to contribute our efforts to change the current of public opinion in favour of justice and sound policy. Popular feeling, properly directed and temperately urged, cannot fail to have some influence on the conduct of Government. In the beginning of the war with America, which ended in the independence of that country, the popular cry was in favour of coercion, and popular opinion differently directed, produced the peace of 1783. We have raised our voice against recurring again to coercive measures. Whether matters are already accommodated with America, or are in a train of being so speedily, it is difficult to ascertain; but even should a temporary accommodation take place, unless we cherish a spirit of peace towards them, no long time will elapse before mutual irritations may again arise. We trust, therefore, that our labour will not be lost, in thus having devoted so many of our pages to the attempt to promote a spirit of peace and reconciliation. K.

The Cottagers of Glenburnie, a Tale for the Farmer's Inglenook. By Elizabeth Hamilton, 8vo, 1 vol. p.p. 408. Edinburgh, Ballantyne & Co. 1808.

TO review a book which has already passed through three large editions with universal approbation, may appear superfluous, yet several reasons induce us to undertake the task. Though the book in question be written purposely for the improvement of the Scotch peasantry, yet in

many points it will be found applicable to ourselves, and if it be again brought forward before the public eye for this purpose, and held up in this particular point of view, as a means of introducing a system of domestic economy among the lower classes in this country, the investigation of its merits, though but a repetition of the praises it has already so deservedly obtained, will not be without its use. It may be said that the manners of the peasantry here, bear no comparison with the high drawn picture now before us; and indeed, were a stranger whose mind had been prepossessed with stories of Irish filth and Irish laziness to travel into this country, for the purpose of verifying the truth of the character, if he were fortunate enough to enter the country at this extremity, sail up Carrickfergus bay, land in Belfast, and pursue the usual route of travellers through Lisburn, he would at once decide that the nation had been foully misrepresented, and wonder at the strange prejudices of foreigners, and the still stranger perversity of so many writers of this country who had dwelt on the unpleasant theme. But on proceeding further, he must be confessed that he would find too much reason to retract his over hasty opinion, he would see in many instances that the scenes of Glenburnie were but too faithfully represented in many parts of this kingdom. Let us not be accused of want of patriotism in making such an avowal. To see our own faults, and to endeavour to amend them, is real patriotism. Improvement is a nation's blessing; a blessing which can never be duly appreciated until we are conscious of our own wants. And for this reason the writer appears to me much more deserving of his country's thanks, who with the candour and courage of a true friend, points out its defects in hopes of applying a remedy, than he who by fanciful high drawn pictures, flatters it into a false sentiment of ideal superiority; or by incorrect representations of its ancient state, leads us to sigh after a return of those days of splendour, and to prefer a relapse into former barbarism to an

exertion at increased improvement. This leads us to confess that another reason for undertaking the present review was that after having expressed ourselves with such severe though necessary reprehension on a writer of our own country, we are glad to seize an excuse for holding up another countrywoman in the light she deserves as one who has really raised the character of her country by her writings. Thus showing that though we "blame when we must," we "approve whenever we can." In our reviewing department we have been accused of severity and injustice; of the former we have only to regret that so many occasions have been given us for exercising that unlovely duty; of the latter, we refer our papers to the candid and unprejudiced, confident that they will be found conformable with the principle on which the review has been commenced, and on which we are determined to proceed, to give merit its due, and place it in the most favourable light, but when ignorance or folly begins to babble, boldly to employ the scourge, and lash it into sense or silence.

This novel, if it should be classed in a species of writings which it resembles only in being founded on fiction, exhibits the simple story of a virtuous woman, who, profiting by the benefits of a religious education, has risen from the lowest rank of society to a situation of independence and comparative affluence, and endeavours to make the best and most acceptable return to the being from whom she received these blessings, by making herself as useful to her fellow-creatures as her means will admit. She is represented as retiring to spend the evening of her life in a retired village in Scotland, not in indolence or self-occupation, but in the active exertions of her abilities in benefiting those around her; not in teaching, and leaving them to practice; but in enforcing by example as she instils by her words those virtues which are valuable in all ranks, but essentially necessary to the poor, that is, to the great mass of mankind.

The principal vice against which the censure of our author is directed, is indolence, which she clearly pro-

by a well conducted inference, from circumstances ingeniously and simply wrought together, to be the parent of many others much greater. She begins by a general outline of the village, but, as Sterne observes, finding herself lost and bewildered in the multitude of objects, she selects a single groupe, and fixing the reader's attention on a single family, in their artless tale, clearly proves the induction just now stated.

The village of Glenburnie is thus described.

"At length the village appeared in view. It consisted of about twenty or thirty thatched cottages, which, but for their chimneys, and the smoke that issued from them, might have passed for so many stables or hogssties, so little had they to distinguish them as the abodes of man. That one horse, at least, was the inhabitant of every dwelling, there was no room to doubt, as every door could not only boast its dunghill, but had a small cart stuck up on end directly before it; which cart, though often broken, and always dirty, seemed ostentatiously displayed as a proof of wealth.

"In the middle of the village stood the kirk, an humble edifice, which meekly raised its head but a few degrees above the neighbouring houses. It was, however, graced by an ornament of peculiar beauty. Two fine old ash trees, which grew at the east end, spread their protecting arms over its lowly roof; and served all the uses of a steeple and a belfry; for on one of the loftiest of these branches was the bell suspended, which, on each returning Sabbath,

"Rang the blest summons to the house
"of God."

"On the other side of the church-yard stood the Manse, distinguished from the other houses in the village, by a sash-window on each side of the door, and garret windows above; which shows that two floors were, or might be inhabited; for in truth the house had such a sombre air, that Mrs. Mason, in passing, concluded it to be deserted."

The farmer's house and garden is then picturesquely described.

"It must be confessed, that the aspect of the dwelling, where she was to

fix her residence, was by no means inviting. The walls were substantial, built, like the houses in the village, of stone and lime; but they were blackened by the mud which the cart-wheels had splattered from the ruts in winter; and on one side of the door, completely covered from view by the contents of a great dunghill. On the other, and directly under the window, was a squashy pool, formed by the dirty water thrown from the house, and in it about twenty young ducks were at this time dabbling.

"At the threshold of the door, room had been left for a paving-stone, but it had never been laid; and consequently the place became too low, to the great advantage of the younger ducklings, who always found in it a plentiful supply of water, in which they could swim without danger. Happily Mr. Stewart was provided with boots, so that he could take a firm step in it, while he lifted Mrs. Mason, and set her down in safety within the threshold. But there an unforeseen danger awaited her, for the great whey pot had stood since morning, when the cheese had been made; and was at the present moment filled with chickens, who were busily picking at the bits of curd which had hardened on the sides, and cruelly mocked their wishes. Over this Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Mason unfortunately stumbled. The pot was overturned, and the chickens cackling with hideous din, flew about in all directions, some over their heads, and others making their way by the pallip (or inner door) into the house.

"The accident was attended with no farther bad consequences than a little hurt upon the shins: and all our party were now assembled in the kitchen; but though they found the doors of the house open, they saw no appearance of any inhabitants.

"By the help of Miss Mary's arm, Mrs. Mason got out into the open air, and gladly assented to her friend's proposal of taking a view of the garden, which lay at the back of the house. On going to the wicket by which it entered, they found it broken, so that they were obliged to wait until the stake which propped it was removed: nor was this the only difficulty

they had to encounter; the path, which was very narrow, was damp, by sippings from the dirty pool; and on each side of it, the ground immediately rose, and the docks and nettles which covered it, consequently grew so high, that they had no alternative but to walk sideways, or to separate.

"Ye'll see a bonny garden if ye gang on," said Mrs. MacClarty; "my son's unco proud o't."

"I wonder your son can let these weeds grow here so rank," said Miss Mary; "I think, if he is proud of the garden, he should take some pains to make the entrance to it passable;"

"O, it does weel enough for us," returned the contented mother. "But saw ye ever sic fine southern wood? or sic a bed o' thyme? we have two rose bushes down yonder too, but we canna get at them for the nettles. My son gets to them by speeling the wa', but he would do any thing for flowers. His father's often angry at the time he spends on them."

"Your husband then has not much taste for the garden, I suppose," said Mrs. Mason; "and indeed so it appears, for here is ground enough to supply a large family with fruit and vegetables all the year round; but I see scarcely any thing but cabbages and weeds."

"Na, na, we have some leeks too," said Mrs. MacClarty, "and green kail in winter in plenty. We dinna pretend to kickshaws; green kail's gude enough for us."

"But," said Miss Mary, "any one may pretend to what they can produce by their own labour. Were your children to dress and weed this garden, there might be a pretty walk; there, you might have a plot of green pease, there, another of beans, and under your window you might have a nice border of flowers to regale you with their sweet smell. They might do this too at very little trouble."

"Ay, but they canna be fashed," said Mrs. MacClarty; "and it does just weel enough."

The inhabitants are such as may be expected in such a dwelling, the parents not devoid either of sense or industry, but incapable through indolence of giving these qualities their

proper direction. The children idle, sullen, and self-willed. Mrs. Mason, after many vain endeavours to overcome their obstinacy, is at length forced to quit the family, and removes to a neighbouring cottage, which though poor, contains in it the germ of improvement. Here she begins to execute a plan that had suggested itself to her on her first arrival, of increasing the happiness of the whole village, by reforming their habits. Seconded by the village pastor and her hosts, she proceeds with success because she acts with system and moderation. The old fashioned prejudices are at length eradicated, and we are presented towards the conclusion with the following pleasing prospect of the village in its state of improvement.

"This striking indication of a change of sentiment in the most sturdy stickler for the *gude auld gait*, foreboded the improvements that were speedily to take place in the village of Glenburnie. These had their origin in the spirit of emulation excited among the elder school-boys, for the external appearance of their respective homes. The girls exerted themselves with no less activity, to effect a reformation within doors; and so successful were they in their respective operations, that by the time the Earl of Longlands came to take possession of Hill Castle, when he, accompanied by his two sisters, came to visit Mrs. Mason at Glenburnie, the village presented such a picture of neatness and comfort, as excelled all that in the course of their travels they had seen. The carts which used formerly to be stuck up on end before every door, were now placed in wattled sheds attached to the gable end of the dwelling, and which were rendered ornamental from their coverings of honey-suckle or ivy. The bright and clear glass of the windows, was seen to advantage peeping through the foliage of the rose trees, and other flowering shrubs that were trimly nailed against the walls. The gardens on the other side were kept with equal care. There the pot-herb flourished. There the goodly rows of bee-hives evinced the additional nourishment afforded their inhabitants, and showed that the

flowers were of other use besides regaling the sight or smell.

"Mrs. Mason, at the request of her noble benefactress, conducted them into several of the cottages, where, merely from the attention paid to neatness, all had the air of cheerfulness and contentment. She was no less pleased than were the cottagers at the expressions of approbation which were liberally bestowed by her admiring friends; who particularly noticed the dress of the young women, which, equally removed from the slovenliness in which so many indulge on the working days, as from the absurd and preposterous attempt at fashion, which is on Sundays so generally assumed, was remarkable for neatness and simplicity. Great as was Mrs. Mason's attachment to the family of Longlands, she would not consent to relinquish her employment, and go to reside at Castle hill, as they proposed she should immediately do. She continued for some years to give her assistance to Morrison in conducting the school, which was now increased by scholars from all parts of the country; and was amply repaid for her kindness by the undeviating gratitude of the the worthy couple, from whom she experienced a constant increase of friendship and affection.

"The happy effects of their joint efforts in improving the hearts and dispositions of the youth of both sexes, and in confirming them in habits of industry and virtue, were so fully displayed, as to afford the greatest satisfaction to their instructors. To have been educated at the school of Glenburnie was considered as an ample recommendation to a servant, and implied a security for truth, diligence, and honesty. And for fortunate was the lad pronounced, whose bride could boast of Mrs. Mason's favour and approbation; for never did these fail to be followed by a conduct, that insured happiness and prosperity."

Should any one wish to know how his extraordinary reform was accomplished, we refer him to the book itself, conscious that the extracts we could make would convey but a faint idea of its merits, and deprive the inquirer of a small degree of rational pleasure.

But it is not by instilling habits of cleanliness and industry in the lower orders, that this book may be useful. It shows that any person, however humble his original station, may rise to respectability and independence, by the practice of those virtues, the exercise of which is within every body's reach. Mrs. Mason, contrary to the established rule in all novels, is not where described as possessing any extraordinary qualifications. We are not told of her age, her size, looks, colour of her hair, or any circumstance to excite our interest. If we may guess from the effects excited on her first appearance, they appear to be rather unfavourable; yet there are few who when they have closed this little memoir, do not wish to be better acquainted with her. We wish she had taken a trip to Ireland: here she would have found much to improve, and much inclination for improvement. Perhaps her native country may yet be the subject of this amiable author's speculations. Till that time we would intimate to her the idea of rendering the present performance more generally known in the classes where alone it can be useful, by reducing it to the capacity of their purses. It would be unjust to propose what might diminish the well-merited profits of this work; but when the public curiosity is fully gratified by it in its present shape, we would strongly recommend the publication of a cheap edition for this special purpose. The rich frequently wish to better the condition of the lower classes, but they seldom undertake the affair the right way. They either stop short too soon, or go too far; and their advances are too often met with suspicious caution. We do not pretend to investigate the causes of this at present; but shall conclude with the observation, founded on long experience, that as vice has always a progressive increase downwards, from the rich to the poor, so every improvement in the morals of the people has taken the contrary direction, originating with the poorer, and gradually extending upwards, until it caught the higher classes, and forced them by an irresistible impulse to yield to the general current.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

IN the present state of the world, the person who undertakes the view of the politics of States and Empires, has a task to perform repugnant to every generous and humane feeling. When he considers mankind, the sublime ends for which they were formed, the capabilities of their nature, and all the good placed so obviously in their view, and within their grasp, as to appear soliciting their enjoyment of it—he shudders to behold them indignantly spurning the bounties of heaven, turning its best gifts into weapons of denance, and fiercer than

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the brinded tiger—seeming only anxious to embroil their hands in the blood of each other. We leave the disorders of private society to the legislator and the moralist, while the contentions of nations and the public conduct of statesmen pass under our review; unhappily these latter burst with impunity the bonds of morality and legislation, while no powerful executive is found to visit their breach upon the guilty.

The clouds which appeared to lower during our last month's notice have now burst, and the shock has Ccc

been extensively felt. The two greatest nations on the Continent of Europe have commenced their *final* struggle, and mankind are agitated with hopes and fears commensurate to the importance which they attach to the termination of the contest.

Spain, Portugal, Sweden, are nearly lost sight of; their affairs are of smaller interest, and must take their direction according to the superior movement.

The immediate causes of the present war betwixt France and Austria seem involved in very convenient obscurity. The advocates on either side have the advantage of appropriating to themselves all the justice, and to their adversary all the turpitude and offence that can aggravate the most wanton aggression. The Austrian government is accused of ingratitude, of violating the oath of friendship made by the Emperor Francis to Bonaparte, when the latter crowned with victory held the destiny of Francis in his hands, and his breath could turn the balance in which empire and annihilation were suspended; of being partial to England and English *gold*, of secretly abetting the Spanish cause while publicly professing friendship to France, and of anxiously awaiting any embarrassment of the latter in order to renew hostility with more than former effect. On the other hand, the ministers of Francis exclaim loudly against the tyranny of Bonaparte to the powers of the Continent, especially the Germanic States, and that troublesome jealousy which will not permit an increase of their army without demanding explanation. In this apparent uncertainty, prudence might require silence; but as impartial spectators, as lovers of our country, we cannot help deploring a renewal of the system which has so often proved fatal to the allies of England, and injurious to her cause, and fortunate only for that man and country we have spent so much blood and treasure in vainly endeavouring to humble. The declarations of Austria, and the assertions of our own ministry, cannot weaken our opinion, that the two governments had come to a perfect understanding, before the former ventured to give Bonaparte cause of distrust

by the distribution and increase of her army. The circumstance of Austria drawing bills to a large amount on the English treasury, Mr. Percival says indeed without advice, to enable her to commence the campaign, is only a corroboration of this opinion; and the easy confidence with which it was introduced in the House of Commons, shows that ministers were not taken unawares, but rather disappointed that she had not made a larger demand, and thereby given promise of a longer contest. The hostility of Austria seems to have been long meditated; but as in the case of Prussia, the indecision of weakness and fear lost the favourable moment, and now the rashness of despair from the same cause, urges her to certain destruction. We need not conceal that we think the probabilities are all against her; and that should she be eventually saved, it must be by causes at present as unforeseen and unexpected, as was little more than a year ago, that evanescent flash of patriotism which appeared in Spain to console the friends of freedom—and then left them confounded by its meteoric existence.

The first hostilities began on the part of Austria, about the 10th or 11th of April, by their troops passing the Inn and compelling the Bavarians to fall back; at the same time a proclamation was issued by the Arch-Duke Charles, announcing the step he had taken, his determination to treat as enemies all who should attempt to oppose him, and inviting the king of Bavaria to place himself under the protection of the Austrian army. His Majesty of Bavaria not liking this mode of invitation, left his capital for Augsburg where the French were in considerable force; the Austrians soon after entered Munich, and possessed themselves of nearly all Bavaria, almost without opposition. On the 19th April we may say the Campaign really commenced at Pfaffenhofen and Tann, near Augsburg, where General Oudinot and the Dukes of Auerstadt (Davoust) and Dantzic (Lefebvre) attacked and defeated the Austrians, and took 11 or 12 hundred prisoners. At Abens-

berg on the 20th, Bonaparte at the head of the Bavarian troops, under General Wrede, and those of Wertheimberg, commanded by General Vandamme, attacked the Arch-Duke Lewis, and General Hiller, whose corps was 60,000 strong, beat it and took 18,000 prisoners with a number of standards and cannon. The Prince Royal of Bavaria was in this battle, as were also the Dukes of Dantzic, and Montebello, (Lefebvre and Lasnes.)

The next day, the 21st, the French advanced against Landshut, before which city the Austrians were again defeated with the loss of 9,000 men, 30 pieces of cannon and a number of caissons and baggage waggons.

During these transactions the Arch-Duke Charles had come from Bohemia towards Ratisbon, which place he obliged to surrender and took 1,000 prisoners; he then proceeded into Bavaria with the view of putting a stop to the rapid progress of the French, and was at Echmühl on the 22d. with 110,000 men; on the evening of which day he was attacked by Bonaparte, having under his orders the Dukes of Montebello, Auerstadt and Dantzic (Lasnes, Davoust and Lefebvre) when the Austrians sustained another defeat with the loss of great part of their artillery, many standards, and 20,000 made prisoners. The Arch Duke retreated upon Ratisbon where another engagement took place the next day, the 23d. the event of which was equally unfortunate; he was compelled to recross the Danube and retire into Bohemia, while Ratisbon with 8,000 prisoners fell into the hands of the French. During the engagement this day, General Count Bellegarde's corps arrived on the field of battle, but does not appear to have taken a part, or had any effect unless perhaps facilitating the retreat of the Arch-Duke.

Bonaparte's head-quarters were at Ratisbon the 24th. from whence he sent his troops in different directions, as if to scour a country where no very formidable opposition was apprehended. On that day the Duke of Rivoli (Massena) marched from Ratisbon with his corps for Passau, on the Inn, where he arrived the 26th a distance of 50 miles in two days, through a

country which a week before had been in the entire possession of the Austrians. The French head-quarters were transferred successively to Muhlthorf, Burghausen, Braunau on the Inn, and Ried still farther on the main road to Vienna, on the southern side of the Danube; at which last place they continued on the 2d. instant.

In Italy the Austrian army under the Arch-Duke John seems to have been successful in the first attack, having driven back the Italian army commanded by the Viceroy (Eugene Beauharnois) in person. The Tyrolese also are said to have risen and expelled the French and Bavarians from the whole of their territory. Later accounts state that the Austrians have been compelled to retire to the Tagliamento with loss; and that the French have re-entered the Tyrol.

In Poland the Arch-Duke Ferdinand, with the division under his command, entered the Duchy of Warsaw about the 19th April, and took the Capital of the same name without opposition. There were some rumours of a battle having previously taken place, but we have not been able to arrive at any authentic information.

We may now pause, and consider the sketch we have just given of those proceedings of the Belligerents which have already reached us. And here we can see nothing to distinguish the present, from the two last campaigns in Germany: the same rapid progress of the French armies, the same inability in her enemies to stem the impetuous torrent; even the consummate abilities of Moreau sometimes allowed the friends of Austria time to indulge a hope of their success, but the eagles of Bonaparte bear down these ill-fated combatants with a violence that often out-strips the worst apprehensions concerning them. The aim of Bonaparte seems in the first instance to be the possession of Vienna, which nothing can long save now but the Arch-Duke Charles risking another general engagement. At the end of April he was still retreating farther into Bohemia, while the Prince of Ponte Corvo (Bernadotte) with the Saxon auxiliaries, was advancing from the North of Germany, towards the theatre of war, by Egra,

which is somewhat in the Arch-Duke's rear. The possession of the Capital, besides the intrinsic advantages arising from its situation and the large supplies of stores collected there, will be still more favourable to the French cause by dispiriting the Austrian army, as was very observable last war at the battle of Austerlitz.

The Archduke Charles seems to have committed a capital error, by advancing so incautiously against the French army. After the capture of Ratisbon, instead of crossing the Danube, had he taken a strong position in the northern side of that river, he would have kept the enemy in check, given time to the beaten divisions of his own army to retire with some kind of order, and either join himself or act again as circumstances might require; but his over anxiety to stop the progress of the French, and give assistance to his brother and the other generals in Bavaria, who he might suppose were over-powered by superior numbers, led him to risk a general engagement, the unfortunate termination of which will probably, exclusive of the immediate consequences of defeat, have an unfavourable influence on the whole campaign. Delay must have been most advantageous to him, and proportionally detrimental to the intentions of Bonaparte.

The latest accounts announce the entrance of Bonaparte into Vienna on the 10th instant, without having experienced any further opposition; that the Archduke Charles was proceeding from Bohemia towards the Austrian frontier, and that the Emperor Francis had gone to the Archduke's head quarters.

According to Bonaparte's usual policy, he is again apparently leaving the Spanish peninsula to its fate, until he accomplishes an object which he considers of far greater importance. Were the Spanish people really animated with that vital spark which we have heard so much of, but whose effects have hitherto been so unoperative, now would be the time by a universal effort to deliver themselves entirely from French domination. We think that if proper measures were adopted the people might still be roused to a sense of their degradation. Were objects placed before them which are known to have a mighty influence on mankind; were advantages brought to

bear on their feelings, sufficient to stir the latent spark of manhood in their bosoms, and warm them into men, we might still have hope of their cause; and Englishmen, who proudly boast of their constitution, might have the honour of emancipating a nation worthy of a better lot than they have long been destined to endure.

A free people in Spain and Portugal would be an effectual counterpoise to the extending influence of Bonaparte on the Continent. And surely the most unbounded liberty enjoyed by these two nations could not be more formidable to us than the whole population of Europe directed against our prosperity, our existence; and wielded by this most dexterous and inveterate adversary. If late accounts can be relied on, the state of affairs in those countries is more favourable than we had any right so soon to expect. The French, spread over a large extent of country, are unable to co-operate or support each other, and although the Spanish and Portuguese troops by themselves would be of little account, yet they serve to occupy attention, and we have a large force again in Portugal, under an officer, brave, skilful and enterprising. Sir Arthur Wellesley, we venture to predict, will not compromise the honour of his country, nor tarnish its ancient military fame; and whatever may be the issue of the present expedition, we shall not have to deplore a lack of national honour at its termination. Should the Austrian war be considerably protracted, and continue serious enough to occupy Bonaparte's attention, his brother may again be compelled to take shelter beyond the Ebro; but unless the inhabitants of these countries, unless the Spaniards and Portuguese are themselves willing to be free, and not merely defended and protected by foreign arms, he will easily and at his leisure wrest back from us the prize won at such expense and hazard. Intelligence is received of Sir Arthur Wellesley having re-taken Oporto the 12th of May, after three smart actions with Marshal Soult, in which the latter was defeated each time, and obliged to retreat to Amarante in disorder, leaving great part of his artillery and stores behind him.

In the absence of information that

can be relied on, reports are industriously circulated of the partiality of Russia to the Austrian cause; but the emperor Alexander's interests are so dependent on his connection with France to allow these rumours any credit. Austria from its situation must be a greater object of jealousy to the Russian court than Bonaparte, and without the consent, and perhaps assistance of the latter, the views which this court is known to have long entertained with respect to Turkey, could never be even partially ratified. As to habits of friendship—Alexander's late conduct to the unfortunate Frederick, must ever banish the idea of his being influenced by so slender a tie. We see nothing in him, which can give any hope of co-operation on the side of Russia.—Turkey indeed, is said to have declared war against this latter power; but surely it is not necessary now to enter on a description of that once mighty empire, to demonstrate the insignificance of any diversion she can make in our favour—Turkey and Austria, against Russia and France, is a volume on the subject. We hear that Russia declared war against Austria on the 25th of April, that the Russian army afterwards entered Galicia in Poland, and gained a victory over the Austrians.

Since the revolution in Sweden the affairs of that country seem to have been conducted with singular prudence and moderation. If the king has any friends, or the late government any partisans, their number must be inconsiderable; for their voice is not heard to disturb the general satisfaction. The measure of assembling the states of the kingdom was a dictate of sound political wisdom; it has diffused joy through all ranks, and given them an assurance in which they seem to rest with confidence, that their grievances shall be redressed. When their ancient form of government is restored, and the people, by representatives freely chosen, recover their due weight and influence, no desolating interminable wars will be carried on without end or object; nor the very independence of the country endangered to gratify the caprice and ambition of a few

leading individuals. When they shall be completely freed from that dreadful scourge, a war of personal motives, contrary to the national interests, they will then have time to consider their domestic policy; and by improving those sources of wealth and comfort which are not stinted to any soil or climate, Sweden may yet enjoy more real happiness than she has found since the splendid era of the great Gustavus. We fear, however, that the weakness of the late king has irrecoverably lost to Sweden a large portion of her territory, and that she will not be able to purchase safety but by assuming a hostile aspect toward us, who are considered by the two leading powers as the fomenters of all discord on the Continent of Europe.

The Duke of Sudermania has now occasion for all his prudence and experience. His speech at the opening of the Diet augurs favourably; it breathes a spirit of moderation and love of country, which shows the virtuous and enlightened Prince looking for happiness in the happiness of those entrusted to his care.

The relations of peace and amity according to present appearances, will speedily be re-established among the northern nations; and the Baltic be as closely shut against our commerce, as it is for a considerable part of the year by the hand of nature herself. On the 10th of May the States of Sweden, united in one assembly, unanimously passed a declaratory act, "that, Gustavus IV. and his issue are now, and for ever, deprived of the crown and government of Sweden."

Denmark seems anxious to consider Sweden again as a friendly power: her irritated feelings towards the late government of the latter for unmanly exultation over her in the hour of national calamity, it is not possible for justice and candour to condemn. Our national good faith was wantonly sacrificed on that occasion, for a paltry consideration; and what did we gain? that which in open warfare we might have gotten at half the expense, and in place of ancient friendship, a rancorous hostility, which ages of moderation will hardly be sufficient

to appease. Would that this act were blotted from the records of our country, and that we could no longer be branded as the violators of the most sacred rights of independent nations!

Without means of accurate information as to the measures pursued or contemplated by America, and kept equally uninformed by our Ministry of the progress made in any negotiations they may be carrying on with her, what we say on that subject must chiefly be matter of surmise; and we do not like to wander too far in the region of conjecture.

The American government seems disappointed that the embargo produced no greater or more immediate effect on those powers, against which its operation was principally directed. Congress met under the influence of feelings arising from this disappointment, and thinking that the many evasions of the embargo which had taken place was the occasion, they proceeded to enact other laws to the same purpose, guarded by stronger sanctions. This was hardship enough to a people unused to the restriction of penal statutes, and being artfully and assiduously represented as unconstitutional by the Federal party, it was opposed with such violence, that congress had to give way, and almost immediately repeal their enactment.

The embargo was superseded on the 20th instant by a non intercourse act, with the provisions of which we are not perfectly acquainted, but by late accounts they seem to have been enforced with such strictness, that several ships ready to sail were obliged to reload their cargoes.

Congress closed their late session equally unsatisfactorily to themselves and their constituents; and that which meets in the present month will be placed in an arduous situation, and will require more than ordinary wisdom and circumspection to conduct their deliberations to a happy issue.

Looking at America as spectators, we thought the embargo a wise measure at the time, and likely to produce the good they expected from it, which was, a temperate and forbearing conduct from France and England; and we still think it would have had this effect,

had it been strictly observed. Its pressure, however, on themselves, was peculiarly severe; accumulating cro unproductive capital, and many thousands of formerly useful citizens—the principal means of enriching the state, now supported by public bounty. Considering these things, we need wonder at the embarrassment of the legislature, fluctuating between private distress and the public honour of the country. If, in this trying situation they yielded the latter to the former, however great and imperative the call, we may respect their motives, but cannot confer the praise of firmness upon their conduct. The government and inhabitants of a country, individually and collectively, should submit to every personal privation and sacrifice rather than the imputation of dishonour should attach to their name. We trust that our government will not renew this subject, nor again force upon the the necessity of self-denying plans but as a relaxation has lately taken place in some of our most obnoxious measures, that this will be followed by their total repeal, and such a system of conciliation adopted, as will ensure peace with America, while we are likely to have war with all the rest of the world.

ENGLAND.

Let us now turn our attention from the Continent, that scene of ill digested and ill concerted plans on the one hand, and that mighty concentration of military force on the other, which is founded on the code of conscription, that vast iron screw, directed by the powerful energies of the autocrat, who, like his prototype Cæsar appears to be actuated by the powerful principle alluded to by the Poet

.....“a soldier's shame, untangled to yield,
Which blush'd for nothing but an ignominious field.”

and proceed to take a view of our domestic situation.

The discussions which took place in the house of commons, on the conduct of the Duke of York, appear to have roused the latent energies of the British public, beyond what a short time ago seemed probable. When the business was brought forward, the ministerial party in the

house openly espoused the Duke's cause. The members of the former administration, the drilled ranks of opposition, kept aloof, and cautiously avoided committing themselves so as to make their return to power hereafter more difficult, or to tie up their own hands from corruption, if they should again become ministers. The *intermitting* Sheridan openly declared himself, and adopting the ministerial phrase, declaimed against the conspiracy to disgrace the illustrious house of Brunswick. Grattan and Pousonby did not form a part of the honourable minority, who supported Wardle's motion, though on some of the qualifying, and accommodating notions, which succeeded, they voted against the minister. The names of Wardle, Burdett, Folkstone, Whitbread, and Romilly, stand pre-eminently conspicuous, as advocates of *be party of the people*. Among the thirty members who voted for Lord Folkstone's motion for general inquiry, we do not find *the name* of one leading member of the late administration. Conscience which makes so many cowards, probably whispered, that some tales might be unfolded, to prove that corrupt practises were not the exclusive property either of the ins or the outs. We recollect "the patriot's oak," and "the dropping guinea from the crack'd bag—"

Which jingling down the back stairs
told the crew,

Id Cato is as great a rogue as you."

The proceedings of parliament were viewed with much interest by the people and a burst of popular enthusiasm broke forth, which, that it may be good, we have only to wish may be permanent. The conduct of parliament was not such as to raise it in popular estimation. Lord Castlereagh, whose conduct was alluded to in our *retrospect*, was acquitted by a majority of 216 to 167, although it early appeared that while he was secretary of state, and president of the board of controul for India affairs, he used his influence in the latter capacity, to begin a bargain for trafficking for a seat in parliament for Lord Cloncarty, one of his friends, by offering to give a writership in the *st* India company's service. He

was principally defended on the ground of the bargain not having been completed, although no reluctance appeared on his part, *as servant of the people*, to dispose of the writership to promote parliamentary influence. In private life, a servant who attempted to betray his trust, would be discharged, though from the business not being completed, sufficient grounds for a criminal prosecution might not exist.

The house of commons have since passed a vote of censure on inferior criminals, the commissioners for taking care of Dutch property brought into Great Britain, when Holland in 1795 fell under the influence of France.—These commissioners retained large sums in their hands and applied the interest to their own emolument, while they also appropriated a commission of 5 per cent to themselves. It is worthy of notice that among these commissioners is the famous John Bowles, who was not disposed to serve his country for nought. He was one of the trio who edited the *Antijacobin Review*; they were George Canning, John Bowles, and the no less celebrated Hookham Frere, the redoubtable military instructor, who lately opposed himself to the prudent counsels of the lamented Sir John Moore in Spain. Bowles is a member of the society for the suppression of vice, the champion of religion and social order, against the horrors of that monster Jacobinism, which so long under the direction of the magician Pitt, frightened the good people of England, and made them so ready to identify abuses with the constitution. But let us hope that these days are past, and that the hypocrisy and interested motives of such defenders as the canting Bowles are unmasked. May a similar fate attend all those, who under the semblance of virtue are the supporters of vice!

A large body of the people have their thoughts now turned to parliamentary reform, from the conviction that the old trade of corruption must continue, if an efficient check, by means of a radical reform, is not put to it. They have seen the strugglers for political power, succeed each other in office, and forget the promises they

made while in opposition. Indeed while the present system of barter and sale continues, nothing better can be expected. To have a virtuous administration, there must be a virtuous parliament, and a virtuous people can alone constitute a virtuous parliament. Let us not be too hasty in throwing the blame off ourselves. If the electors are venal, and give their votes on interested motives, the representative may be expected to sell his vote, as he purchased his seat. If representatives must be paid for their support of ministers, either by places for themselves or their connections, or in some of the thousand ways, "which lend corruption lighter wings to fly," ministers must gratify them, or give place to less scrupulous successors. Through all the ramifications of society, the progress of corruption must be stopped. Even in private life, we see much of it. The expectants of places for themselves, or their relatives are numerous in the Church, the law, the army, the navy, and the revenue: and all these, unless in the instances, which it is hoped may be numerous, wherein virtuous principle counteracts selfish motives, are advocates for the continuance of corrupt influence. To assist in the cure of these complicated evils, a parliamentary reform is recommended by the most skilful state physicians: but to be effectual it must combine a scheme to lessen the price of his vote, and the cost of his seat to the representative, both which ends might probably to a certain degree be effected, by shortening the duration of parliaments, if to these measures further regulations were superadded.

For a view of the state of our present representation, we refer to the official documents, given at the end of this retrospect, for the resolutions entered into at the meeting of the freeholders of Hampshire, who not content with giving *empty thanks*, to the virtuous minority of 125, who supported Wardle,* pointed out, a remedy in

reform, for the glaring evils which he brought before the public, as well as for all others in which the practice differs from the theory of the constitution. We likewise subjoin, and earnestly recommend to the perusal of our readers, the resolutions of the friends of reform held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in Westminster on the 1st. instant, resolutions which at once are firm and temperate. The old stale objection that this is not the time for reform, is revived. But in the vocabulary of courtiers and courtly adherents, the portentous word reform is not admitted. In peaceable times we are told to let things remain as they are, and in stormy seasons we are desired not to increase the dangers of the tempest and thus the old fabric of the constitution is not to be touched, either to prepare against the storm, or to use precautions to secure its stability when the storm rages.

In consequence of the system to expose abuses, Mr. Madocks in the House of Commons brought a charge against Lord Castlereagh and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for corrupt practices in regard to seats in parliament: as to the former for actual interference, and against the latter for participating in the knowledge of the transaction. Among other cases alluded to, the instance of the borough of Cashel was particularly specified. It appears that through the agency of Lord Castlereagh's seat in this borough had been sold to Quintin Dick, esq. but when it was known that in the late investigation his vote would be against an acquittal, a kind of intimation or hint was given that he should vacate his seat, which he accordingly did. The complaint was two fold, against minister interfering in the elections of members of parliament, and acting as whole sale traffickers, and monopolizers in boroughs; and, secondly, for attempting to coerce the vote of a member. Quintin Dick has since declared by letter, that Lord Castlereagh did not desire him to vacate his seat. Pro

*It is reported that to female patriotism we are indebted in part for the successful exertions of this intrepid opposer of corruption. Mrs. Wardle, it is said, sedulously employed herself in examining

papers and preparing notes for her husband, to assist him in his arduous labours.

bably the order did not come personally from him, but if there were no grounds for the charges, the way to refute it was obvious, by entering into the examinations. Both sides of the house *coalesced* in negating the inquiry, the numbers being 83 for the motion to examine, and 310 against it. The old opposition members with entire consistency voted against inquiring into conduct, which their own practice had sanctioned. The party for the people stood alone and unsupported, by either of the old contending parties.

In the present state of public opinion, the house of Commons, and the people do not act in unison. It remains to be seen whether the present burst of enthusiasm will be permanent or only as in other cases the fashion of the day. If the people act only from the impulse of the moment; or suffer themselves to be betrayed into intemperate conduct or expressions, the effervescence will probably subside into apathy but the expression of the public will declared with perseverance, firmness and coolness cannot fail, in time, of producing the most salutary effects, in promoting a real and radical reform. Two bills are now before the House of Commons, the one introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to prevent the sale of places, and the other by Mr. Curwen to prevent the purchase of seats in parliament. How far these bills will be made effective so as to answer their titles we must leave till we see them fully completed, and passed into laws: during which process they may yet undergo several alterations. It does not appear likely that the latter will be suffered to arrive at maturity, or if carried, would materially remove the evil.

That veteran in Reform, Christopher Wyvill, a clergyman of the church of England, who as chairman of the committee of the county of York, so ably advocated the cause of reform in the period previous to 1783 and 1784, when Reform was in fashion, and when Pitt was ranked among the reformers; but who did not join in the apostacy which succeeded, is now in his advancing years zealously engaged in a plan to

promote religious liberty. He, in conjunction with a number of others, all of whom, with the exception of Dr. Disney, are members of the church of England, have a petition to parliament prepared to be presented during the present session, in which, embracing religious liberty in the most comprehensive sense, they pray that all political distinctions on account of religious opinions may cease, and all penal laws, whether affecting Catholics, or the several denominations of Protestant dissenters, and others, may be repealed. Let us hail the commencement of such a truly enlightened and liberal policy, as the abolition of political distinctions on account of opinions on the subject of religion. It may not receive its consummation for years to come—but when a beginning is made, let us trust to so just a sentiment gaining its way in time. The friends to progressive improvement receive consolation and encouragement from the final issue, after years of unsuccessful efforts, of the abolition of the African slave trade.

“Great is truth, and it will prevail.”

The ninth Report of the Commissioners of Military Inquiry has been lately published, in which the army expenditure in the West Indies is the subject of investigation. Great frauds appear, and a Commissary-general is charged, “with having very early framed and established, by means of combinations and intricacies almost impervious, an over-ruling and highly injurious influence over the whole transactions of the public, connected with the pay, and enormous expenditures of the army in this part of the world.” Some unfair transactions relating to the purchases of rum, wine, and flour, and also respecting the rates of exchange, being from 5 to 25 per cent beyond the prices at which the bills were credited to the public, are detailed, but which it would exceed our bounds to specify more particularly. This business has since undergone investigation in the courts of law. We sincerely hope that substantial justice may be done on all peculators, who, like leeches, have been long fastening on the vital strength of
D d d

these countries, but who, from the frequency of such crimes, and from the multitudes to keep each other in countenance, are not sufficiently held in deserved detestation.

SCOTLAND.

We have not hitherto, in the course of our political labours, alluded especially to this country. But we gladly embrace the opportunity of making the first mention of this our near neighbour, to relate an instance of public spirit in her sons. Many of the inhabitants of the town of Glasgow, who have been long remarkable for their public spirit, wished to manifest, by a public act, their approbation of the conduct of Colonel Wardle, and were among the foremost in Great Britain in expressing this sentiment. A respectful application was made to the Lord Provost for his permission and consent, to call a meeting of the inhabitants; he refused to comply in very direct terms, though in a polite and gentleman-like manner. Respect for the authority and deference to the opinion of the chief magistrate induced the gentlemen who had interested themselves in this proposal, to abandon the idea of a public meeting. They resolved on opening places for receiving signatures to an address to that independent member of parliament. They had fresh difficulties to encounter, for the editors of the Glasgow newspapers refused admission to the advertisement, giving notice of the places where the address was left to receive signatures. The payment of advertising was offered, and the editor of the Glasgow Courier took payment, but on the next day returned the money, intimating he was not at liberty to publish it. Such conduct of the editors of newspapers, so repugnant to the principles of freedom, and so destructive to the liberty of the press, excited disgust in a numerous class of their readers. One of them, the editor of the Herald, thought proper to apologise, but in terms which advanced principles as arbitrary as any contained in the most abject and servile parts of the Napoleon code. It is much to be regretted that the editors of newspapers in many places do not act more impartially, but have their views so much turned to court the favour of the few, so as to neglect the interests

of the many, by whom they are supported. The committee say "they trust, however, that some public-spirited individuals will soon attempt to establish a news-paper in that city, which shall give a faithful narrative of the great events, and important proceedings which at this portentous period are occupying the public attention, whose columns shall be open to every species of liberal and candid discussion, consistent with the principles of the constitution. A free press is the safe-guard of our rights, and if this palladium shall ever become servile and venal, the sources of political information will soon be polluted, the people's minds poisoned, the constitution trampled on, and the country ruined." To such sound doctrine we cordially subscribe.

Among the official documents will be found the address, and advertisements, as also the letter to Colonel Wardle and his answer. The address, notwithstanding all opposition, received the signature of upwards of 4000 subscribers. The inhabitants of Paisley and its suburbs, amounting to upwards of 4,400 have likewise thanked G. L. Wardle, esq. Lord Falkstone, Sir Francis Burdett and Samuel Whitbread, esq. and the other independent members who supported the question, as entitled to a just tribute of national gratitude, for the noble instance of zeal which they displayed in the face of no common opposition, and which it is hoped is only an earnest of the advantages to be derived from the combined efforts of the 125 Honourable and Independent representatives, who stood forward to stem the torrent of corruption.

In 1793 by the banishment of Mair and Palmer and others, Scotland was put down by the strong hand of power, while alarm and terror succeeded. But Scotland was only sleeping. Now that she is awakened, she is found not to have been completely paralytic, but suffering only under a temporary torpor.

IRELAND.

The hopes entertained of the meeting at Belfast have not been realised. Immediately on opening the meeting, an attempt was made to prevent any thing being done; but it was over-ruled. A coldly polite address was then voted to

Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, esq. and, without specifying any by name, to every other member of the House of Commons who supported him, or voted with him. Such is the state of public spirit in the populous and opulent town of Belfast, that many despaired of any measure tending more effectually to promote reform being carried. Yet we cannot but regret that some possessing public spirit, or civil courage, a virtue so necessary and so rare, did not step forward with a resolution in favour of a cure for the evils which were admitted to exist: as we believe that many in that town sincerely wish well to the cause of reform, and "the progress of public opinion."

The inhabitants of Keady and its vicinity, in the county of Armagh, have returned thanks to G. L. Wardle, esq. and presented him with a piece of Irish linen, in token of their gratitude and real esteem. They have likewise voted thanks to Jas. Craig, esq. the representative for Carrickfergus, as forming an honourable exception to many of our Irish members, we believe to all our northern ones, by appearing in the minority of 125. We refer our readers to page 403 for their resolutions.

The county of Cavan has also published a vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle and his coadjutors. A protest against those proceedings has been signed by some of the freeholders of that county. Henry Parnell, esq. brought forward on the 19th instant in the house of commons a motion for leave to bring in a bill to allow the clergy of Ireland to grant leases of tithes to their parishioners, for a term not exceeding twenty-one years; By this plan he intended to insure the land-holder against the uncertainty of the present mode of levying tythes, and to secure him against the evasions by which leases during incumbency are broken. He was supported by several of our Irish members, and opposed by some others: but the negative of the minister prevailed, and the motion was got rid of by the previous question being carried by a majority of 137 to 62. A wise government concedes to the wishes of the people; but in the opinion of some, not a stone of the old building, however misshapen or tottering it may appear, must be touch-

ed, lest more should be brought down with it. A greater grievance does not exist in Ireland than the present system of tything. The people suffer, and in many instances the situation of the clergy is not comfortable.

On the 24th inst. the Catholics had a meeting in Dublin, the Earl of Fingall in the chair, to consider of the propriety of petitioning Parliament. At this meeting, some diversity of opinion prevailed. We hail it as a favourable omen. It is pleasant to see free discussion liberally exercised, and the rights of private judgment displayed in matters which interest so numerous a class of our fellow-citizens, and by which a genuine spirit of liberty is kept alive among them.

A proposal was made to address parliament: but considering the advanced period of the session, an amendment was proposed, that the petition should be prepared to be presented at the early part of the next: and in the mean time notice be given in parliament of such intention. This plan was at length adopted, after the following resolutions had been carried by a majority.

Resolved. We, the Catholics of Ireland, have made repeated petitions for the relief of our grievances. The greatest and wisest of men, both in and out of parliament, both in and out of office, were decidedly in favour of the expediency and justice of our claims; and they further insisted, that it was necessary to the very existence of the empire, to interest in its defence a population of from four to five millions of Catholics, constituting more than a fourth of the United Kingdom. We are now unhappily and experimentally convinced, that no principle of justice, no force of reasoning, is sufficient to counteract a malignant influence which threatens the empire with general contamination, and consequent destruction. Public delinquents and defaulters would put to hazard the existence of the reigning family, and the integrity of the empire, rather than restore the people to the privileges of the constitution, which would produce such wholesome reforms of abuses, as must deprive themselves of the opportunity of undue influence and peculation. Under these discouraging circumstances, without hope of success at present, we are unwilling to agitate our claims by petitions to Parliament, feeling that rejection might increase the discontent already existing in our breasts, and

we cannot be indifferent to the pernicious effect of acquiescing authentically, through the debates of the British parliament, our potent and too unsuccessful enemy, with the internal divisions and corruptions of the state, in the only powerful nation not yet subject to his controul."

It is highly gratifying to our feelings to express our conviction, that the question of Catholic emancipation has made considerable way in England during the last two years. We think we had pleasing evidence of this progress in public opinion during the discussions which took place last year in parliament, on the Catholic petition. The greater part of the literary class, espouse the cause of emancipation; among whom the Edinburgh and Monthly Reviewers take a conspicuous place: the lively Letters of Peter Plymley are said to have passed an eleventh edition. It is to the honour of literature that it tends to expand the heart, and is favourable to the cause of liberality. We fondly hope that in Great Britain the, "No popery cry," is silent to be heard again no more, and that some who were active in promoting it, like men recovering from a paroxysm of passion, are ashamed of their conduct. May our Irish brethren of all denominations forget their former animosities, fostered more by political distinction, and differences rather from their relative situations, than from dissensions arising from the nature of opposite creeds. There is at present more of civil disunion, than of religious contest among us, though the former is allowed to be the effect of the latter, in more distant periods. It is a prevailing sentiment to allow to each other the liberty to form our own opinions on matters of religion. Why then should we perpetuate the distinctions which formerly arose from the narrow and contracted plan of acting? The rights of private judgment when we do no injury to our neighbour, and leave him unmolested also in his rights should be sacred, and free as the light of heaven.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

From the London Gazette, Saturday, April 29.

As the Court at the Queen's Palace,

the 26th of April, 1809, present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas his Majesty, by his Order in Council of the 11th November, 1807, was pleased, for the reasons assigned therein, to order, that "all the ports and places of France and her allies, or of any other country at war with his Majesty, and all other ports or places in Europe, from which although not at war with his Majesty, the British flag is excluded, and all ports or places in the colonies belonging to his Majesty's enemies, should from thenceforth be subject to the same restrictions, in point of trade and navigation, as if the same were actually blockaded in the most strict and rigorous manner;" and also to prohibit "all trade in articles which are the produce or manufacture of the said countries or colonies;" and whereas his Majesty having been nevertheless desirous not to subject those colonies which were in alliance or amity, to any greater inconvenience than was absolutely inseparable from carrying into effect his Majesty's just determination to counteract the designs of his enemies, did make certain exceptions and modifications expressed in the said Order of the 11th of November, and in certain subsequent Orders of the 25th of November, declaratory of the aforesaid Order of the 11th of November and the 13th of December, 1801, and the 30th of March, 1808.

And whereas, in consequence of divers events which have taken place since the date of the first-mentioned Order affecting the relation between Great Britain and the territories of other powers, it is expedient, that sundry parts and provisions of the said Orders should be altered or revoked:

His Majesty is therefore pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to revoke and annul the said several Orders, except as herein after expressed, and so much of the said several Orders, except as aforesaid, is hereby revoked accordingly.

And his Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that all the ports and places, as far north as the river Ems inclusively, under the government stilling itself the kingdom of Holland, and all ports and places under the government of France, together with the colonies, plantations and settlements in the possession of those governments respectively, and all ports and places in the northern parts of Italy, to be reckoned from the ports of Oristello and Pesaro inclusively, shall continue and

be subject to the same restrictions, in point of trade and navigation, without any exception, as if the same were actually blockaded by his Majesty's forces in the most strict and rigorous manner; and that every vessel trading from or to the said countries or colonies, plantations or settlements, together with all goods and merchandise on board, shall be condemned as prize to the captors.

And his Majesty is farther pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that this order shall have effect from the day of the date thereof, with respect to any ship, together with its cargo, which may be captured subsequent to such day; on any voyage which is and shall be rendered legal by this Order, although such voyage, at the time of the commencement of the same, was unlawful and prohibited under the said former Orders; and such ships, upon being brought in, shall be released accordingly; and with respect to all ships, together with their cargoes, which may be captured in a voyage which was permitted under the exceptions of the Orders above-mentioned, but which is not permitted according to the provisions of this Order, his Majesty is pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that such ships and their cargoes shall not be liable to condemnation, unless they shall have received actual notice of the present Order before such capture; or in default of such notice, until after the expiration of the like intervals from the date of this Order, as were allowed for constructive notice in the Orders of the 25th of November, 1807, and the 18th of May, 1808, at the several places and latitudes therein specified.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and Judges of the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, are to give the necessary directions therein, as to them may respectively appertain.

STEPHEN COTTEFFELL.

PROCLAMATION.

FRANCIS I. by the Grace of God, Emperor of Austria, &c.

"People of Austria!—I leave my capital to join the brave defenders of the country, assembled on the frontiers, for the protection of the State.

"For these three years past I have made the utmost exertions to procure you, my beloved subjects, the blessings

of a permanent peace. No sacrifice, any ways consistent with your welfare and with the independence of the State, however painful, have I spared, to secure your tranquillity and welfare by a friendly understanding with the Emperor of the French.

"But all my endeavours proved fruitless. The Austrian monarchy was also obliged to submit to the boundless ambition of the Emperor Napoleon; and in the same manner he strives to subdue Spain, insults the sacred Head of the Church, appropriates to himself the provinces of Italy, and parcels out the German dominions; Austria was to do homage to the *great empire*, the formation of which he has loudly announced.

"I have adopted all necessary measures for the independence of the State. Not only have ye answered my call, but the love of your native country has prompted you to anticipate it. Accept my cordial thanks; they will be repeated by my posterity and yours. Self-defence, not invasion, was our aim. But the Conqueror will not allow the Sovereign of his People, strong in their mutual confidence, to possess sufficient means to oppose his selfish views. He declared himself hostile to Austria, unless she should relinquish her measures of defence, and prostrate herself, disarmed, at his feet.—The disgraceful proposal was rejected; and now his hosts are advancing against us, arrayed for battle.

"I confide in God, in the valour of my armies, in the heroic conduct of my brother, who leads them out to glory, in you, my beloved people; our exertions for this war are great, but such they must be, in order to attain more securely the important end of self-preservation.

"What you have hitherto done, is the most unquestionable pledge of the powerful assistance which I am to receive from you. They who bear no arms, will also share in the protection of their country. Unanimity, order, obedience, activity and confidence constitute the real strength of a nation. You have evinced to them, and to this alone it is owing, that we start with a fairer prospect of success than we ever did. Fortunate events will not unnerve your energy, nor disastrous occurrences, should any happen, shake your firm resolve. Perseverant valour overcomes all dangers, enhances every advantage, and supplies all losses. Our cause is just, Providence does not forsake those who do not forsake themselves.

"I depend on your love, your tried fidelity to your prince and country. De-

pend ye on the paternal solicitude of your monarch, who finds all his happiness in yours.

(Signed)

"FRANCIS."

Vienna, Apr. 18, 1809.

REFORM OF PARLIAMENT.

CROWN AND ANCHOR DINNER.

Yesterday the Meeting of the Friends of Reform was attended by above a thousand gentlemen, who dined together.

At five the doors of the Great Room were thrown open, and the room was full in a very few minutes. Several other rooms were also thrown open for the reception of the company who could not get admission into the Great Room.

Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Cochrane, Mr. Wardle, and several of the stewards, entered together, and were received with very loud applauses.

The first toast which was given after dinner was, "The King, and the principles which seated his family on the throne." This toast was premised by the Chairman (Sir Francis Burdett) with an observation, that the Sovereign was the person who was most deeply interested in the promotion of those measures, which they then assembled to promulgate. The toast was drank with loud applauses. The second toast was, "The People," and the third, "The progress of Public Opinion," which were also drank with loud applause.

Sir Francis Burdett then rose, and addressed the meeting in a speech, replete with eloquence, which our limits do not permit us to enter upon.

Major Cartwright afterwards moved the following resolutions, which were carried *nem. con.*

Resolved, 1. That it is the grand principle of the Constitution, that the people shall have a share in the government, by a just representation in Parliament.

2. That the long duration of Parliament greatly facilitates the corruption of the members, and removes that wholesome check or control on their conduct, a frequent recurrence to the opinion of their constituents.

3. That in a petition presented to the House of Commons, on the 6th of May, 1793, it was offered to be proved at the bar, "that 154 individuals did, by their own authority, appoint, or procure the return of 507 members of that House," (exclusive of those from Scotland) "who are thus enabled to decide all questions in the name of the whole people of Great Britain."

4. That this meeting believes individual patronage in boroughs has increased

since 1793—that the representation of Scotland is extremely influenced and unfree—that there are great defects in that of Ireland—and that in the English boroughs called *rotten*, the returns are for the most part obtained for money: wherefore, upon the whole, it is the opinion of this meeting, that a great majority of the members of the Commons House, are so returned, that the Nation is not constitutionally represented; while yet it is taxed to support an expenditure of seventy millions sterling a year.

5. That in the Act (commonly called the Act of Settlement) which placed the House of Brunswick on the throne of these realms, it was asserted, and recognized as the constitutional principle, that no person who "has an office or place of profit under the king, or receives a pension from the crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons."

6. That it appears, by a report laid on the table of the House of Commons in June last, that 78 of its members are in the regular receipt, under the crown, of 178,994*l.* a year.

7. That in 1782 it was declared by Mr. Pitt in the House of Commons, that "seven or eight members of that House were sent there by the Mahob of Arrot, and that a foreign state in amity to this country might procure a party to act for it under the mask and character of members of that House."

8. That such a state of representation is a national grievance.

9. That in every department of the state, into which inquiry has been made, scandalous corruptions and abuses have been detected.

10. That the exclusion of the public voice from all influence in, and the consequent corruption of the governments of the continental states, have been the causes of their subjugation.

11. That so long as the people shall not be fairly represented, corruption will increase; our debts and our taxes will accumulate; our resources will be dissipated; the native energy of the people will be depressed; and the country deprived of its best defence against foreign foes.

12. That to remedy the great and glaring evils of which we complain, it is not necessary to have recourse to theoretical speculations, or dangerous experiments in government, but to recur to the principles handed down to us by the wisdom and virtue of our forefathers.

13. That the remedy is to be found, and to be found only in a full and fair representation of all the people in the

Commons House of Parliament; a remedy equally necessary to the safety of the throne, and the happiness and independence of the country.

14. That we therefore recommend to every town, city, and county, to take the state of the representation into consideration, and urgently, but temperately, to apply to Parliament to adopt such measures as shall secure to the nation the reality and uses of representation.

Colonel Wardle, Lord Cochrane, Mr. Madocks, Mr. Waithman, Mr. Townsend, Mr. W. Smyth, and others, severally expressed their sentiments before the meeting was dissolved.

HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.

April 25th, 1809.

The High Sheriff of the county in the chair.

"Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to Gwyllyn Lloyd Wardle, esq. for having instituted the recent inquiry in the house of commons relative to the conduct of his Royal Highness the Duke of York; for having unconnected with, and unsupported by, any faction or party, prosecuted that laudable undertaking with talent and zeal, temper and perseverance, rarely to be met with; and especially for having had the resolution thus to discharge his duty, in defiance of the threats of the king's servants, and in spite of the prejudices endeavoured to be excited against his charges, through the false and hypocritical pretence that they proceeded from a Jacobin conspiracy; a pretence which, for many years past, has been the best ally of corruption, and through the means of which pretence, artful and wicked men have but too long stifled the voice of truth, have abused the ear and drained the purses of this unsuspecting and loyal nation:—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sir Francis Burdett, bart. who seconded Mr. Wardle's motion for the inquiry, and also to lord viscount Folkestone, for the active and zealous assistance which his lordship afforded Mr. Wardle during the whole of the proceedings connected therewith; and to both of these gentlemen for their able and constitutional speeches in the discussion upon Mr. Wardle's motion of the 8th of March, and the subsequent discussions, arising out of the evidence taken during the said inquiry:—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Lords viscount Milton and Althorpe; to Lord Stanley; to the Hon. T. Brand and W. H. Lyttleton; to Sir S. Romilly, and Sir T. Turton; to major-general Ferguson; and to S. Whitbread, J. C. Curwen, T. W. Coke, H. Martin, J. Cal-

craft, and C. W. W. Wyne, esquires, who during the discussions aforementioned, stood forward the advocates of impartial justice; and also to the minority of 125, who divided in favour of Mr. Wardle's motion, amongst whom we, as Hampshire-men, observe, with pleasure and with pride, the names of Sir H. Milnes, bart. and of Admiral Markham, and Newton Fellows, esq. while we, though not with very great surprise, observe, and trust that the fact will be remembered, that the name of neither of the members for this County does appear upon that honourable list:—That, in the course of the above-named Inquiry, acts of meanness, profligacy, and corruption, unparalleled, as we firmly believe in the history of any Government in the world, have been brought to light, and proved to our perfect conviction; and that while we, as Englishmen and loyal subjects, cannot help feeling sorrow and shame at seeing the Son, and indignation at seeing so many of the servants of our Sovereign involved in such scandalous transactions, we cannot, as men setting a proper value upon religious instruction and example, help entertaining the same feelings, and, if possible in an aggravated degree, at seeing deeply implicated in those transactions, no less than five ministers of the established church; nor can we refrain from an expression of our anxious hope, that the Clergy in general (following, in this respect, the example of the two Reverend Gentlemen who signed the Requisition for this Meeting) will lose no opportunity of inculcating an abhorrence of such practices, and thereby of showing, that the church, like her Founder, is no respecter of persons, and that her endowments are not received as the wages of dependence and sycophancy, but as the worthy hire of the labourer in the vineyard of Christian piety, and of private and public virtue:—That in adverting to the cause of the injurious and disgraceful acts, thus revealed and demonstrated, this meeting cannot help observing, that in the Act of settlement, in virtue of which act and of which act only, his majesty's family was raised to the throne of this kingdom, it is declared, "that no person who has an office, or place of profit, under the king, or receives a pension from the crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the house of commons;" but that, notwithstanding the wise precaution of this act, which is one of our great constitutional laws, and which, as its precep-

his expressos, was made "for the further limitation of the crown, and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject," it appears from a report laid before the house of commons in the month of June last, in consequence of a motion made by lord Cochrane, that there are in that house seventy-eight placemen and pensioners, who, though part of what they receive is not stated, are, in the said report, stated to receive 178,994*l.* a year out of the taxes raised upon the people, and, of course, out of the money, to watch over the expenditure of which they are appointed:—That, if any doubt could have remained, as to the baneful effects of such a state of the house of commons, that doubt must have been removed by the rejection of Mr. Wardle's above-mentioned proposition, in the teeth of the clearest and most conclusive evidence, positive as well as circumstantial, written as well as verbal; and upon which occasion it appeared that all the king's ministers, all the placemen and all the pensioners then present, voted against the said proposition:—That, in the act of parliament, commonly called the Bill of Rights, it is declared, "That the election of members of parliament ought to be free," and, in the same act it is declared, "That the violating of the freedom of elections of members to serve in parliament," was one of the crimes of king James the 2*nd*, and one of the grounds upon which he was driven from the throne of this kingdom, but that, notwithstanding this law, which is said to be one of the great bulwarks of the constitution, and notwithstanding divers other laws, made for the purpose of preventing undue returns of members of parliament, it does appear, from evidence given during the above-said inquiry, that Lord Clancarty and Lord Viscount Castlereagh, both of them servants of the king, and the latter a privy councillor, a secretary of state, and a member of the house of commons, did offer to give a writership in the East Indies, in exchange for a seat in the house of commons, and that the failure of that corrupt negotiation was owing, not to any disinclination on their part, but on the part of the seat-seller, to whom the offer was made:—That this meeting have observed, that during a debate in the house of commons, on the 20*th* of this month, upon the subjects of the abovesaid inquiry, Thomas Creevey, esq. one of the honourable minority of 123, did distinctly state, that, it was not only his belief, but that it was within his own knowledge, that seats in parliament had

been bought and sold; that the treasury not only openly bought and sold these seats, but kept, in a great degree, a monopoly of the market, and that it was perfectly well-known, that a dissolution of parliament was not an appeal to the people, but an appeal to the treasury; and that this meeting have further observed, that, in answer to the statement of Mr. Creevey (for which that gentleman is entitled to our particular thanks) the king's minister, Mr. Perceval, did not attempt to deny the facts alleged, but contented himself with insinuating, that the opposite party, when in power, had been guilty of similar practices:—That, from the foregoing facts, as well as from numerous others, notorious to the whole nation, this meeting have a firm conviction, that it is in the house of commons, as at present constituted, that exists the great and efficient cause of that profligacy of manners amongst so many in high life; of that corrupt disposal of offices; of that endless train of wretched populations; of that squandering of our earnings and incomes; of that establishment of an army of foreigners in the heart of our country; of that incapacity in the conducting of public affairs, both at home and abroad; and of all that national misery and disgrace which have been but too long so severely felt, and the dangers to be apprehended from which, have now attracted the serious attention of even the most thoughtless and unobserving:—That, therefore, this meeting, striding alike for the preservation of his Majesty's throne, and legitimate authority, and for the restoration of the rights and liberties bequeathed them by the wisdom, the fortitude, and the valour of their forefathers, hold it a duty which they owe to their Sovereign and his successors, to themselves and their children, to the safety, happiness, and renown of their country, to declare their decided conviction, that no change for the better can reasonably be expected, without such a reform in the common house of parliament, as shall make that house, in reality as well as in name, the representatives of the people, and see the instruments in the hands of a minister; and further to declare, that it will be expedient for us, at a future convenient time, to assemble in country-meeting, in order to consider of a petition to the king, praying that his majesty will be graciously pleased to afford us his royal countenance and support in our constitutional efforts against a faction of borough mongers, not less hostile to the true dignity and just pre-

rogatives of his Majesty's Crown, than to the interests and feelings of his faithful, suffering, and insulted people.

"Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Wm. Powlett Powlett and Wm. Cobbett esquires, and the other sixty-nine Members for the part they respectively took in calling the Meeting, and for their conduct thereat.

"Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Sheriff, for his readiness in convening the same, and for the impartiality with which he presided.

Resolved unanimously, that these resolutions be signed by the sheriff, in the name, and on behalf of the meeting, and that the same be printed and published in the county papers, and in the Statesman, the Morning Chronicle, the Times, and the Courier London newspapers; and that the Sheriff be requested to forward the vote of thanks to Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,
JOHN BLACKBURN, sheriff."

To those Resolutions, as well as the following, and the many others, which our limits would not allow us to insert, Colonel Wardle returned handsome replies, in constitutional language expressed with firmness and noble independence.

A JUST TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WARDLE.

As a wish has been very generally expressed by the inhabitants of this city and its neighbourhood, that Colonel G. L. WARDLE, M. P. should be publicly acknowledged for his present arduous undertaking, an opportunity will be afforded them of doing so, by subscribing an Address to that independent member of the British Parliament, of which the tenor follows:

We, hereunto subscribing, inhabitants of the city and suburbs of Glasgow, hereby testify our unbiassed and unprejudiced opinion—That Colonel Wardle, by first stepping forward, and by his conduct throughout the whole of the investigation now pending in the Honourable the House of Commons relative to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, has proved himself to the world, to be one of the most magnanimous, patriotic, firm, and candid men in his Majesty's dominions.

All those who wish to mark and distinguish the conduct of this intrepid and persevering Representative of the People and who concur in the plain and obvious sentiment contained in the above address, will have an opportunity of joining in expressing it, by signing subscription-pa-

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pers, which will be opened for that purpose on Thursday first.

Glasgow, March 15th, 1809.

GLASGOW NEWSPAPERS, AND
COLONEL WARDLE.

The Public are respectfully informed, that the Committee conducting the Address to Colonel Wardle, made application to the Publishers of the Herald, Courier, and Western Star, requesting them to insert the former hand-bill, but for reasons, best known to themselves, it was refused.

The Committee have, therefore, no choice, but to address the Public, through the medium of this bill, intimating, that the subscription will FINALLY close on MONDAY the 20th current.

It is expected, therefore, that all those who believe that "Righteousness exalteth a Nation, but sin is a reproach to any People," and who wish to avert those public calamities, with which nations, for their crimes, are always visited, will not neglect this opportunity of endeavouring to stem the torrent of corruption and public vice, which just now threatens to overwhelm the land, by testifying their approbation of a British Senator, who has stood forward almost alone and unassisted, to grapple with Immorality in the plenitude of its power, and in its most hideous and degrading form.

Glasgow, March 18th, 1809.

However great the disadvantages were, under which the Committee laboured, from the Newspapers refusing the advertisements, and many other discouragements thrown in the way, by officious, ignorant, and contemptible individuals, in six days, 4500 persons subscribed the Address.

No time was lost in getting it forwarded to London, where it was sent to the charge of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Falkstone, with a request that his Lordship would have the goodness to present it to Colonel Wardle. A letter, of which the following is a copy, accompanied the Address.

G. L. WARDLE, Esq.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward you an Address from a considerable portion of the inhabitants of this city and suburbs, who, animated with a spark of that independence of mind which shines so conspicuously in your character, felt themselves called upon to give this public testimony of the high estimation in which they hold your parliamentary conduct, and their unequivocal approbation of the constitutional, manly, and candid manner, in which you brought forward, and carried on the investigation relative to

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his Royal Highness the Duke of York. We hesitate not to express it as our opinion, that you have, in every respect, shown yourself worthy of the honourable appellation of an *Independent British Senator*; an appellation, Sir, that will be coupled with your name, and that of your noble supporters in this inquiry, while the annals of Britain remain.

To you, Sir, who have so nobly struck corruption at its source; and in spite of every difficulty and prejudice, so firmly stood forward to stem its torrent; to your honourable friends, Lord Folkstone, Sir Francis Burdett, Samuel Wytbread, esq., and to the other worthy and independent Representatives of the People, who have supported you on this occasion, we are indebted for having shown us, that we have a constitution worthy of being preserved; the latent energies of which, when called into action by a faithful Representative, can snake power, however great, and subject to investigation the official conduct and administration of the highest Officer in the State.

Great as the difficulties may have been which you had to encounter in your arduous undertaking, we think it necessary to state, that in conducting this Address we also have had our share of these to overcome, as the following brief narrative of facts will show.

A public meeting was proposed among a few of our citizens, for the purpose of moving this Address, and a deputation was appointed to wait on the Lord Provost, to obtain his consent to the measure. A decided negative, however, was given to our proposal. Being thus disappointed, we determined to persevere, but were compelled to adopt the more silent, but no less efficacious mode of opening subscription papers in different parts of the city. Even this was attempted to be rendered as ineffectual as possible, by the publishers of the Newspapers here, refusing to insert our Advertisements, affording a melancholy proof of the undue influence exercised over that palladium of our liberties—the press—and leaving to us the alternative only, of calling forth the public attention, by a liberal distribution of posting and hand bills.

In the face of all these impediments, and many more little indirect tricks which have been played off, and no small share, even of obloquy and reproach, nay of *demerory and sedition*, the committee conducting this address are proud to say, that in six days at least 4000 inhabitants have voluntarily annexed their signatures.

This address, sir, we now beg leave to present to you, through the medium of

that worthy nobleman Lord Folkstone, as the voluntary and unbiassed conviction of our minds; under the impression, that the approbation of 4000 of your fellow-subjects will not be rejected. It contains, sir, the genuine signatures of those whose hands are unsullied with the public plunder, and to such, headed by patriots like you, our much-abused country must look for its safety, in the hour of danger.

Though you, sir, have already done much, and we are induced to believe, from your bright example, that yet there is hope, that the corruption and abuses which have so long existed, and preyed on the vitals of our country, will be checked and removed; and that vice and immorality, will, as ashamed, be made to hide their heads—yet much remains to be done. Persevere, then, sir, in the glorious course you have begun, and that you may long remain an ornament to your country, and a blessing to generations yet unborn, is the sincere wish of, most respectfully,

In the name, and by order of
the Committee, Sir,

Your most obedient,

Glasgow, And very humble servant,
March 24, 1809. ROBERT HASTIE.

ADDRESS OF THE INHABITANTS OF FAISLEY.

Sir,

I have the honour of transmitting, through the medium of Sir Francis Burdett, bart. an Address subscribed by upwards of Four Thousand Four Hundred Inhabitants of the Town and Vicinity of Paisley, who are anxious to contribute the little in their power to the numerous marks of approbation you are receiving from a grateful country, and which is so highly merited by you, for that noble instance of zeal for the public welfare which you displayed, in the face of no common opposition, in bringing forward, unaided and alone, the important charges against the late Commander-in-Chief, which, we trust, will be followed by salutary effects to our suffering Country.

We also, with peculiar pleasure, congratulate you on the support received from Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Folkstone, and Samuel Wytbread, esq. in the progress of that memorable and important inquiry. We, Sir, do indulge the hope, that this service is only an earnest of the advantages this nation will yet derive from the combined efforts of the One Hundred and Twenty-Five honourable and independent Representatives who are faithfully adhered to the cause of their Country. Go on Sir, in the brilliant course in which you have entered, by endeavouring to detect and expose injustice and corruption, in whatever department of the State it may be found; never induced, by the opposition

of powerful and interested men, to relax your exertions for the public good. That you may long remain the guardian of the legitimate principles of the Constitution, and the protector of the rights and privileges of British Subjects; and that your name may live in the remembrance of a grateful People, and descend, with increasing lustre, to the latest posterity, is the sincerest wish of (in name and by appointment of the Committee) Sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant.

ALEX. STEVENSON,

Colonel G. L. Wardle, M. P.

Faisley, 26th April 1809.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE INHABITANTS OF READY.

Resolved 1st—That, as the profligacy and corruption of Rulers and of those who exercise authority under them, have uniformly led to the subversion of governments, states, and empires, in which they prevailed; we consider every exertion by which their introduction may be prevented, their progress checked, or their influence destroyed, in a Monarchy, Oligarchy, or Republic, as highly meritorious, and justly entitled to the approbation and gratitude of every member of the state.

2dly—That, in our opinion, such approbation and gratitude are justly due to the patriotic virtue of G. L. WARDLE, esq. for instituting an inquiry into the conduct of the Dukes of York, late commander-in-chief of the British forces; and the zeal, fortitude, and perseverance with which he prosecuted said inquiry, so honourable to himself and interesting to his country.

3dly—That, under this conviction, we hereby offer him our sincere and honest thanks, for his manlike, independent, and well-conducted exertions in his country's cause; and we presume to express our hope and confidence, that he will not abandon his inquiries till public corrup-

tion shall be traced through all her channels, even to her highest sources; dragged from her banquets and her bagnios, and exposed to public detestation, not only as the voracious monster which exhausts the resources of the State, and dissolves the sinews of war in the lap of profligacy; but the fiend which irritates the minds of the people, by abusing their confidence, poisons their spirits with discontents, and excites murmurs which may swell into a storm, whose violence may shiver the bonds of social order, and endanger the stability of the Throne.

4thly—That we hereby offer our thanks also to the VIRTUOUS and VICTORIOUS minority, who supported G. L. WARDLE, esq. in his honourable and patriotic inquiry; and whilst we perceive, with heart-felt regret, so few names of our countrymen in the virtuous and dignified band, we recognize, with equal pleasure that of JAMES CRAIG, esq. whom we hail—to whom we offer our thanks—and of whom we are proud—not as a representative of our county, but the representative of our province, on the late momentous question.

5thly—That in testimony, not only of our gratitude but real esteem for Col. WARDLE, a piece of IRISH LINEN be presented to him, in the hope that he will never tarnish it by the stains of political apostasy, or wallowing in the filth of that corruption which he has so effectually exposed to public view, and public detestation.

6thly—That these Resolutions be published in the Belfast Commercial Chronicle and Dublin Evening Herald; and that a copy of the same be forwarded to G. L. WARDLE, esq. and another to JAMES CRAIG, esq. by our Chairman.—Signed in our name, and by our order,

SAMUEL LESLIE, Chairman.

G. KIDD, Secretary.

DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

ARRAID...Married... Mr. J. Martin, to Miss M. E. McClelland, of Island Magee. Mr. Maguire of Ballymena, to Miss Davidson of Aboghill. Lieut. J. Burke, of the Westmeath militia, to Frances, daughter of Rear Admiral Sir Digby Dent, baronet.

Died... In Belfast, Mr. A. McIvra. At Larne, aged 25, Mr. David Moore. In Belfast, Mr. William Mooney, land surveyor. At Belfast, on the 29th March,

last, aged 18, Mr. John Byrre Smylie, son to Mr. Smylie, of this town.

ARMAGH...Married... At Turner's grove, Mr. Borthewick, of Falkirk, to Miss Mary Andrews, of Annesborough, Co. Down. Mr. Hugh Kidd, of Tullielugh, to Miss Eliza McKinsty, of Glen.

QUEEN'S CO.... A further account of James Pim of Rushin, whose death was announced in our last number, but deferred for want of room; was furnished to us by a Correspondent. Although his amiable qualities were in

some degree obscured from the world by local and domestic habits, yet were strikingly conspicuous to those who knew him. In the early part of his life, he carried on a considerable branch of the woollen business, in addition to his farm; in the conducting of which his social, generous, and unassuming disposition gained him the love and esteem of those he employed; as also of all the country round, by many of whom in the higher ranks of life, his society was sought after. As he advanced in life, his engagements in trade, not answering his expectations, he turned his attention to the management of his farm, which produced him and a large family a comfortable subsistence. In this rural and patriarchal retreat, his benevolent heart was conspicuous, particularly in the bosom of his own family, and when surrounded by his friends, he was an affectionate husband, a tender and loving father, a good neighbour, a kind and generous friend, a gentlemen and christian in whom was no guile. Although from early habit he was attached to the leading features of the society in which he was educated, yet as the evening of his day approached, he discovered much liberality of sentiment, and could cordially embrace those who differed from him in opinion. He married early in life Deborah, daughter of Anthony Robinson near Moat, county Westmeath, by whom he had seven sons, and nine daughters; fourteen of whom are still living, who with his widow are left to deplore their loss. May they also endeavour to imitate his bright example! His remains were interred at Mountrath the 8th instant, accompanied by a number of his united family and friends.

"Say ye to the righteous; that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings."

Down....Married....Mr. Robert Gibson, to Miss Rachel Patterson, both of Newtownards. Mr. John M'Caubrey, of Saintfield, aged 56, to Miss Brown, of Killinchy in the woods, aged 16.

Died....At Castlewellan, Mr. Edward Young. In consequence of a fall from his horse, Mr. James Sinclair, of Comber. At Newry, Mr. John Guy, sen. Mrs. M'Clure, wife of the Rev. Robt. M'Clure, of Annahilt, near Hillsborough.

DONEGAL....Died....At Donaghmore, Miss Spence, daughter to the Rev. N. Spence.

DERRY....Married....In the city of Londonderry, Mr. M'Conegal to Miss E. M'Conegal.

LEINSTER.

DUBLIN....Married....G. Chamley, esq. of the co. Down, to Miss Massey, daughter of Godfrey Massey, of Ballywire, co. Tipperary, esq. Henry Vansittart, esq. captain of his Majesty's ship *Fortunet*, to M. C. Pennyfather, daughter of the Rev. John Pennyfather, of Newport, co. Tipperary.

LOUTH....Married....Henry Hardman, esq. to Miss Davis, youngest daughter of the late James Davis, esq. of Drogheda.

MUNSTER.

CORK....Died....At Tower bridge, near Blarney, aged 100 years and four months, Robert Walsh, he passed his whole life a bachelor, retaining his understanding and senses to the last. **BRITISH.**

Died, February 26, 1809, in the 31st year of her age, **ANNE FINCH**, daughter of Mr. Finch of Birmingham. If to record departed merit be the office of the survivors, the death of this amiable young lady ought not to pass without notice. Her person was lovely, her temper uncommonly sweet, sympathizing and affectionate. She possessed a mind highly capable of cultivation, and great quickness of parts, as well as of feeling. Those advantages she enjoyed, perhaps, in common with many others; but what distinguishes her character is, that she was early called to sustain trials and to practise virtues more than commonly falls to the lot of so tender an age. During that period in which even virtuous and promising youth is supposed to be sufficiently employed in furnishing the mind, and disciplining the heart, by way of preparation for the graver duties of life, she was already practising them. Miss Finch was deprived of an excellent mother, the worthy and beloved daughter of Dr. Priestley, at the early age of fourteen; not however before she had imbibed principles of piety and moral conduct, lessons of wisdom, and habits of exertion with which that mother, during her long decline, had anxiously endeavoured to fix upon her mind, knowing the task which would devolve upon her. She was the eldest child of seven, and from that period to the day of her death she supplied her mother's place in the family, and was housekeeper, nurse, companion to her father, and instructress to her younger brothers and sisters. It was a touching sight for those who knew her in the interior of her home, to see a blooming young woman, her eyes sparkling with vivacity, endued with a quick and lively relish for all the innocent enjoyments of life, as well as a strong desire

for intellectual improvement; carried abroad; desired in society, where her looks, and the ingenuous expression of her quick sensations diffused joy and cheerfulness, to see her bending her mind to every matron care, every domestic occupation; the patient instructress; the prudent manager; the attentive nurse; and all this under the pressure of great difficulties, and narrow circumstances, which made the care of a family to her, a truly serious and painful occupation.—In the last of these employments, that of a nurse, she caught a fever, which after a fortnight's illness, ended fatally, notwithstanding the kindest and most unremitting attentions of medical and other friends. The death of the young naturally excites sympathy, but we dom has there been a more general sensation of the kind than on the present occasion, both in the town where she lived and among an extended circle of friends and acquaintance. Her affectionate father and her younger sisters have sustain-

ed an irreparable loss. For herself, perhaps it ought not to be considered as a misfortune, that early maturity in virtue, has met with an early dismission from the cares and troubles of life.

*When loveliness, arrayed in opening bloom,
Framed to delight the senses, the heart to cheer,
Sinks early blasted to the silent tomb,
Who can suppress the sigh? restrain the tear?
But faith sheds comfort on the troubled mind,
And gratitude recounts what once was given;
To him who lent it be the boon resigned;
What soul too spotless, kind, and good
for heaven?
Sloke Newbig ..

☞ We were unable to devote that portion of room to the obituary we could have wished, notwithstanding we have given ten additional pages.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From April 20, till May 20.

The weather has been mostly dry since last Report, and latterly unusually hot for the season, which has been rather unfavourable for the flax crops; the moisture of the earth being too small to allow the seed to vegetate, and in many parts where the soil was light and dry, there appears a great inequality in its progress, and unless the late showers bring it forward, the prospect of a good crop is doubtful, the writer of this report has heard of several crops of flax that were sown early in April, having entirely failed, owing, as is supposed, to the severe night-frosts that happened about the time of its vegetating, and many people who were tempted by the difference of price, to purchase old seed, have been obliged to sow their ground a second time.

The quantity sown this year is estimated at very little more than one half the average of other seasons, which with the lateness of sowing, and the great proportion of bad seed in the market, are circumstances that afford reason for apprehending that there will be a great deficiency of raw material of our staple manufacture.

The wheat crops in many parts of the country are extremely thin, especially where they were late sown; the seed appears to have either been cut off by the worm, or to have perished before vegetation.

Oats and barley are also complained of in some places for being thin; the hot weather is certainly against their having a good appearance, but every farmer knows that these crops always look worst during the present month, and generally improve in the ensuing one.

The principal part of the potatoe crops have been got into the ground in good order, and as the quantity planted is supposed to be greater than usual, we may hope for an abundant supply of that best of roots for the succeeding year.

The following mode of saving Flaxseed has been suggested by a Correspondent, and we submit it to public trial.

One very material objection which lies against saving flaxseed, in this wet climate, is that the Lanes rains are frequently of long continuance and so heavy as to beat down the flax when the seed is filling, and consequently top-heavy, in this state the stalk in a short time rots, instant pulling is the only remedy to save the flax—the seed is lost. Against such a misfortune as this, there appears but one certain remedy, which is to prevent that part of the flax from which seed is intended to be saved from being thus beat down, by supporting it with rods, in the same manner as peas are. The rods should be two thirds the length of full-grown flax, and set immediately after the last weeding. From flax thus prepared, good seed may be saved in the worst of seasons. Digitized by Google

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

OWING to the pernicious orders in council, not more than one half of the usual quantity of flaxseed is sown in Ireland, this year. In many places the old Riga seed was of bad quality, and the people are now re-sowing their grounds. Our staple trade must suffer considerably from this deficiency. In the mean time, however, the speculators in flax not finding it convenient to hold it much longer, that article has fallen considerably. In Liverpool Irish flax now sells at about 18s. per stone.

The sale of linens both in London and Dublin is suspended. The wholesale drapers in London have made a stand against purchasing at the present prices, but it is said that the stock of linens in their warehouses is small. Brown linens in this country have experienced little depression; from these considerations, and from the small quantity of flaxseed sown, there is little room to expect a permanent fall on this article.

Since the alteration of the embargo in America, some vessels have arrived from that country. A small quantity of flaxseed was received, but totally inadequate to the supply needed. Cotton wool has fallen very greatly in price, to the no small loss of the speculators in that article. If they only suffered there would be little cause for regret, but the holders of that article for the necessary purposes of their trade, also suffer. Such are the effects of the commercial war system, and of speculation carried to the unwarrantable lengths to which it has latterly arrived. To the speculations in linen, flax and cotton we may add the speculation in fine wool, and superfine woollen-cloths. Owing to the seizure of a quantity of Vicuna wool in Spain, by the French, speculation was immediately at work, and without any adequate cause, the manufactures of fine wool advanced most rapidly. The effects have been dismal, and according to a calculation made by some members of the board of agriculture in England, it is computed that 20,000 taylors have in that country been thrown out of employment. At a public dinner held after Lord Somerville's late shew of fat cattle, in London, Sir John Sinclair, alluding to this circumstance, gave the following toast, which is also applicable on other similar instances of speculation: "May idle speculators never fleece the industrious."

Notwithstanding the relaxations in the embargo, on the part of America, and the alteration in the British orders in council, matters appear far from being accommodated between the two countries. At present the Americans declare Holland to be neutral, and the British direct the blockade of her ports. If they act according to these declarations, British cruisers will probably seize American vessels entering the ports of Holland, and thus give occasion for direct hostilities. Affairs must remain in this state of uncertainty for some time longer, at least till the decision of the American government is known, when they see the alterations made in the orders in council.

In the mean time the president (Madison) has published a proclamation stating that intimation has been given to him by the British envoy, that the orders in council would be withdrawn on the 10th of next month, and declaring in that case free intercourse shall be renewed between the two countries from that period. Some cause for hesitation yet remained, whether the alterations which have been made by our government, will afford complete satisfaction in America. Doubts on this subject are still farther confirmed, by observations that the Earl of Bathurst, as president of the Board of Trade, in a conversation with the chairman of the committee of American merchants, has declared that the British Envoy was not authorized to make the concessions to America, which appear in his correspondence. Thus our administration show themselves not possessed of the qualification to know how to concede with dignity, but depend on, render their diplomatic negotiations a mere higgling bargain, of a trifle more or less to be conceded.

The Earl of Liverpool and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have declared that these orders are not rescinded, but only altered to accommodate the present state of things, particularly with regard to the countries now in alliance with England. They attempted to involve the business in obscurity, and to give to it the appearance of little concession being made to America. Lord Grenville well remarked, "that the fate of the present alterations would probably be similar to the original orders, to be praised, supported, carried, and finally relinquished; and that in the exact proportion, in which they participated of the nature of the former orders, in the same proportion they would be found injurious to the interests of the country."

A limited intercourse is at present permitted between these countries and Holland, the necessities of the latter country have probably extorted some concessions in the way of trade from her rulers, although the continuance of them is very precarious, and this trade may probably again, as on former occasions, be speedily interrupted.

Some decisions have lately taken place in the courts of law in this country, which are likely to produce a great change in the system of discounting in the town of Belfast. It has been adjudged that if any sum exceeding 6 per cent per annum, be taken on bills, whether under the name of commission, or any other denomination, the laws against usury apply, and that particularly giving bills which have some time to run, as cash is usury in an aggravated form. On the question of law, the business appears to be decided, as to the propriety of allowing such practices in a commercial country, much may be said on both sides. If men of small capitals are assisted by such a practice to carry on trade, they may also be oppressed if the exactions are too great, and the profits of the trade may come ultimately to centre in the coffers of the discounters. In some cases the weak may be advantageously aided, but in others an undue extension of trade beyond the capital of the trader, may be encouraged to his own injury, and in many cases to the injury of those in the same trade with him; and this mode of raising money by drawing and redrawing, is attended with so heavy charges, as almost in all cases to sink those who engage deeply in it.

During the current month, exchange has risen to $8\frac{1}{2}$ and $8\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, for gold, while the premium on guineas has fallen to 1, and latterly to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from April 20, till May 20,

Barometer....highest	30 10	Thermometer....highest	73 30
mean	29 30	mean	42 00
lowest	29 0	lowest	34 00

Typhus, - - - - -	1	Contagious fever.
Pneumonia, - - - - -	1	Pleurisy.
Ophthalmia, - - - - -	4	Inflammation of the eyes.
Rheumatismus acutus, -	2	Acute rheumatism.
Phthisis Pulmonalis, -	1	Consumption.
Asthma, - - - - -	2	Asthma.
Amaurosis, - - - - -	2	Blindness without apparent disease.
Aphthæ, - - - - -	1	Thrush.
Varicella, - - - - -	1	Small pox.
Scrophula, - - - - -	6	Evil.
Herpes, - - - - -	4	Tetter, vulgarly called scurvy.
Pyrosis, - - - - -	1	Waterbrash.
Hæmoptysis, - - - - -	1	Spitting of blood.
Epilepsia cerebralis, -	2	Convulsions.
Colica, - - - - -	2	Colic.
Hysteria, - - - - -	1	Hysterics.
Rachitis, - - - - -	1	Rickets.
Anasarca, - - - - -	1	General Dropsy.
Gonorrhœa, - - - - -	8	Venereal disease.
Syphilitis, - - - - -		
Morbi infantiles, - - -	27	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

The diseases of this month are not marked by any particular character, unless it be mildness, fever is gradually wearing away, which together with the absence of small-pox, measles, scarlet-fever and whooping-cough, ought to be esteemed a blessing, for although the list presents one case of small-pox, it cannot be altogether referred to the diseases of Belfast or its neighbourhood, as the child was sent here to be inoculated for cow-pox and brought the disease with it from a distance of ten or twelve miles, nor has it spread, as most of the children in the street where it remained had been previously vaccinated, one of the cases of amaurosis, or gutta serena, decidedly returns an opinion of Dr. Darwin and some others, that "this is a disease of dark eyes only," the subject of it having light blue eyes; electricity, calomel, hemlock and a seaton had been all tried in vain, when it occurred to your reporter that a trassism might be useful in removing the torpid or paralytic state of the optic nerve, but he is obliged to declare that neither in this nor in two similar cases was there the slightest benefit derived from its application; and in the case of a man who filled himself by drinking a large quantity of spirits its effects were much less in

producing muscular motion than where sudden death had taken place from any other kind of violence, the irritable principle being, as your reporter supposes nearly exhausted by the stimulus of the ardent spirit; but although it has been inefficacious in these cases, it has been applied with marked advantage in rheumatism and some other complaints and it has removed tooth-ache almost instantaneously.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From April, 20, to May 20.

Through the garden now we'll range,
View its sweets and mark its change,
Beauteous fav'rites of a day!

Oh! how sweet the breath of May,
Oh! how rich her form appears,
Bounteous smiling thro' her tears,
As the day-star riding high,
Clears the lately clouded sky.

WESTAL.

The wise and the simple, the learned and unlearned, of every age and every nation, have dwelt with raptures on the pleasures of spring, and cold and desponding must be that heart, which is not elated at the awakening of nature from the death-like sleep of winter. A pleasure arises like that from meeting an old friend, on beholding the enlivened plants again displaying their fragrant or gaudy blossoms: a thousand pleasing or melancholy reflections, fix themselves in the imagination, and the sensations which we experienced when last we saw their evolving beauties re-occupy their place in the mind.

Seldom has spring appeared with more graceful mien than at present, her progress has not been interrupted by the usual frowns of winter, and the trifling check which vegetation received, only retarded the flowering to a more genial period, and in full luxuriance the fragrant orchard now presents the pleasing prospect of a fruitful autumn.

22, Peach leaved Willow (*Salix amygdalina*) Common Plum (*Prunus domestica*) Bird Cherry (*Prunus avium*) flowering, and Willow Wren (*Motacilla Trochilus*) come and singing.

23, Stichwort or Starwort (*Stellaria Holostea*) flowering, and Nettle Butterfly (*Papila urtica*) plenty.

24, Byzantine Squill (*Scilla amoena*) flowering, and Orange Tip Butterfly (*Papilio Cardamines*) appearing.

25, Purple Orchis (*Orchis mascula*) Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) flowering.

30, Thyme leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*) Hoop petticoat Narcissus (*Narcissus Bulbocodium*) flowering, Willow wren plenty.

May 1, Mountain Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) flowering.

3, Bristly leaved Lychnidea (*Phlox setacea*) flowering. A swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) flying about.

4, Cow Parsley (*Chærophylum sylvestre*) Oriental Narcissus (*Narcissus orientalis*) flowering.

5, Swallows plenty, and the Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) singing.

6, Louise Wort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) flowering.

7, Germander Speedwell (*Veronica Chamædrys*) Harebell (*Scilla nutans*) Tuberous bitter Vetch (*Orobis tuberosus*) Blue Flowered Bugle (*Adjuca reptans*) flowering.

8, Rail (*Gallinula crex*) calling, Herrings (*Clupea Harrengus*) appear in Belfast Lough.

10, Tulips (*Tulipa Gesneri*) flowering.

11, Torrent avens (*Geum rivale*) Apple (*Pyrus Malus*) flowering, and White spot Butterfly (*Papilio Egeria*) appearing.

12, Broom (*Spartium scoparium*) Buck-bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) flowering, and White throat (*Motacilla sylvia* Lin.) come and singing.

13, Stiffst (*Ranunculus repens*) flowering.

14, Yellow Poppy (*Papaver Cambricum*) Awl-leaved Spurry (*Spergula subulata*) Wood Geranium (*Geranium sylvaticum*) flowering, and Sedge Warbler (*Motacilla salicaria* Lin.) come.

15, White Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) flowering.

16, Crimson flowering Pœony (*Pœonia peregrina*) and fine leaved Pœony (*Pœonia tenuifolia*) flowering.

17, Soft Dovesfoot (*Geranium molle*) Cut leaved *Geranium* (*Geranium dissectum*) and Birds-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) flowering.

18, Rose-coloured upright Honeysuckle (*Azalea nudiflora*) Yellow do. (*Azalea Pontica*) and Marsh Starwort (*Stellaria uliginosa*) flowering.

19, Persian Lilac (*Syringa Persica*) flowering, and Swifts (*Hirundo Apus*) come.

20, Pontic Rose Bay (*Rhododendron Ponticum*) and Berberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) in flower; most people have heard of, and many have seen the extraordinary degree of irritability exhibited by the Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa sensitiva*) but few have observed that the Common Berberry, exhibits this principle in a no less remarkable degree in its flower, on touching with a pin, the base of the Stamina, an instantaneous motion takes place, the anthera are struck against the stigma, and a discharge of pollen takes place; sometime after, generally in about a quarter of an hour the stamina regain their former position.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT..

From April 20, to May 20.

It is not often that we have had a better opportunity of remarking the extraordinary influence of the wind on the weather, than since our last Report, and how much the heat and cold of a country depend on its proximity or distance from a continent or high land, from which the wind blows: about London and Bath the fall of snow was so great on the 20th and 21st of April, that it was lying in many places to the depth of three feet, and the streets of Bath were said to be nearly impassable, while we, being in a situation where the stream of cold air had to pass over a greater extent of sea, only experienced that degree of cold which produces hail showers.

April, 22, 23, 24,	Fine dry days.
25	Gentle rain.
26,	Dark dry day.
27,	Rain in the morning.
28, 29,	Cold clear days.
30,	Dark day with rain in the evening.
May, 1, 2,	Hail shower.
3,	Pleasant dry day.
4, 5,	Gentle showers.
6,	Breezy with a trifling shower.
7, 17,	Clear dry days.
18,	In the evening thunder to the eastward, with rain.
19,	Same.
20,	Dark dry day.

The Barometer was on the first of May, 29° 2' and on the 24th of April 30° 6' the rest of the time there was little variation.

The Thermometer although on the 21st of April, and 2d May, it was so low in the morning as 39, has seldom been observed so high at the season; invariably warm weather set in on the 6th of May, since which time the Thermometer has not been observed below 51, and on the 15th it was as high as 63.

The general prevalence of the wind, has been northerly; as it was observed northerly 14; southerly 10; easterly only once. The intermediate points were easterly 13, westerly 11 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JUNE 1809.

THE Moon rises on the first, at 29 min. past 11, aft. being at that time between the first and second stars of the Goat, but while they are near the horizon the stars will not be visible. She passes the mer. at 6 min. past 4, next morning, at which time the bright star Athair in the Eagle is nearly north from her; at 9 she is 51° 7' from Markab, and 54° 3' from Antares.

Fifth, She rises at 47 min. past 0, morning, and passes the meridian at 36 min. past 6, at this time the two bright stars Markab and Scheat, are due north of her and on the meridian, west of the meridian we may behold Athair, and nearer the horizon the two beautiful stars, Ras Alhague in the Serpent-bearer and Ras Algethi in Hercules, and to the west Algenib, Menkar, &c. She sets 25 min. past 0, aft.

Tenth, She rises at 48 min. past 2, morning, being then near the Pleiades; as she mounts the heavens she is followed by Aldebaran, Bellatrix, Betelgeuse and Rigel in Orion; by Castor and Pollux, in the Twins; by Procyon in the little Dog, and by Sirius in the great Dog, all which form a pleasing prospect to the early riser, who delights in observing the motions, &c. of the heavenly bodies. She culminates at 20 min. past 10, morning.

Fifteenth, The Moon again cheers us in our evening excursions; she passes the mer. at 16 min. past 2, aft. and does not set till 58 min past 9 o'clock, which is one hour and 28 min. after sun-set; at 9 she is $93^{\circ} 30'$ from Regulus.

Twentieth, She passes the meridian at 17 min. past 6, aft. and sets at 12; at 9 she was $29^{\circ} 42'$ from Spica, in the Virgin, and $88^{\circ} 28'$ from the Sun.

Twentyfifth, She rises at 36 min. past 6 aft. and passes the meridian at 40 min. past 10, having Saturn and the second star of the Scorpion to the west of her, and Antares nearly below her; at 9 she is $54^{\circ} 20'$ from Achair in the Eagle, $47^{\circ} 54'$ from Spica in the Virgin.

Thirtieth, She rises 21 min. past 10; aft. at this time she is removed very considerably from the two first stars of the Goat, and to have above her the two first stars of the Water Bearer, and to the east the two first stars of this constellation.

Mercury, this month is favourable for observations on him, he is an evening star during the whole of the month; on the 18 he is at his greatest elongation. The Moon passes him on the 15th.

Venus is a morning star, too near the sun to be much observed in the beginning of the month, but her distance from him is daily encreasing. The Moon passes her on the 10th.

Mars passes the mer. on the 1st, at 23 min. past 3, aft. and on the 25th at 6 min. past 7, his motion is direct through $8\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. The moon passes him on the 22d.

Jupiter is a morning star, at the latter end of the month this planet being a little west of Venus, will, with her, attract the attention of the early traveller. The moon passes him on the 7th.

Saturn passes the mer. on the 1st, at 38 min. past 11, aft. and on the 25th, at 52 min. past 9, his motion is retrograde through about two degrees, and we shall observe it by his distance from the second of the Scorpion, increasing. The moon passes him on the 25th.

Herschell passes the mer. 6 min. past 10, aft. on the 1st, and at 36 min. past 8 aft. on the 21st his motion is retrograde through nearly three quarters of a degree. The Moon passes him on the 23d.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.				4th SATELLITE.			
Immersion.				Immersion.											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	10	53	42	2	6	37	44	7	7	51	27 Im.	14	15	48	23 Im.
4	5	22	12	5	19	56	58	7	10	26	39 E.	14	16	12	39 E.
5	23	50	37	9	9	15	11	14	11	51	57 Im.				
7	18	19	7	12	22	34	31	14	14	26	4 E.				
9	12	47	32	16	11	52	43	21	15	52	25 Im.	* First Satellite Continued.			
11	7	16	1	20	1	12	5	21	18	25	32 E.				
13	1	44	26	23	14	30	18	28	19	53	24 Im.				
14	20	12	56	27	3	40	40	28	22	25	29 E.				
16	14	41	19	30	17	7	54								
18	9	9	47												
20	3	38	12												
Look to the right hand.*												21	22	6	38
												23	16	35	3
												25	11	3	29
												27	5	31	54
												29	0	0	20
												30	18	28	44

IF present to our Readers a sample of the fine Yarn, mentioned in a former number, spun by Ann At-Quillin, of Comber; as a proof of the fertility of our Countryman.

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 11.]

JUNE 30, 1809.

[Vol. 2.

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

EXPERIMENTS ON THE HYDROMETER.

MECHANICAL men are not generally in the habit of writing or communicating to the public the discoveries which arise from their experience, even though such information could be of no injury to themselves. Nevertheless, circumstances apparently small and trifling not unfrequently occur to observing artists, which, when made known might be of the greater use both to the philosopher and the man of business.

This is the only apology I shall make for laying before the public through the medium of your Magazine the following experimental observations concerning the Hydrometer, relative to its accuracy in showing the specific gravity of fluids; its use in showing the temperature in the same manner as the Thermometer; how it may be made to act as a Baroscope, and how it is convertible into a Barometer.

Whether these observations be useful or not, I do not pretend to say, but shall briefly mention them as they occurred, first premising, that in Hydrometers for finding the specific gravity of fluids or solids (where accuracy is required) the body or ball B, (fig. 1) must be large and the stem S, small, also it must be weighted or balanced at b, so as to cause the stem S, to stand upright when put in a fluid contained in a convenient shaped vessel. These are things generally known.

In the course of business I made an Hydrometer, of which the ball B, was two inches diameter, and the stem S, .02 of an inch diameter, and 12 inches long. By this instrument I found the specific gravity of water sensibly changed when only *one ounce* of alkaline salt was mixed with

400 gallons of water, $\frac{1}{125}$ in comparative weights to each other.

I next examined what effect different temperatures had upon this instrument. At the time I was trying the experiment, the water I used showed 50° of heat according to Fahrenheit's scale, and the Hydrometer stood in the water at 50° (fig. 1) I gradually increased the heat of the water to 75° of the same scale, during which time the Hydrometer sunk 12 inches, as marked 75° in the same figure.* This experiment proves that the instrument is capable of showing the different temperatures, in the same manner as the Thermometer, also teaches us what care is necessary in finding and observing the temperature of a fluid before its specific gravity can be correctly known.

When I reflected on the discovery I had now made, that this instrument rendered the degrees of heat and cold very conspicuous by the specific gravity of the water being varied according to the temperature,† the following idea occurred to my mind; if a large ball or glass bubble, hermetically sealed, were placed on the top of the stem S at a, and adjusted by balance, so that the surface of the water might intersect the stem S, at C; after such adjustment, should the air become specifically heavier, the bubble would be moved upwards, and find its balance by moving more of the stem S, out of the water into the air; if the air became lighter the reverse would be the effect.

* The Hydrometer here referred to was made of Glass. Brass Hydrometers expand more and do not show the variations by heat and cold so sensibly.

† It moved nearly half an inch for each degree of heat the water received.

c g g

In trying the experiment the result exactly agreed with the idea before-mentioned, so that during the time the temperature remained the same, the instrument possessed all the properties of the Baroscope; but in different temperatures and fluids it contains the united properties of the *Hydrometer*, *Thermometer*, and *Barometer*.

FIG. 2.

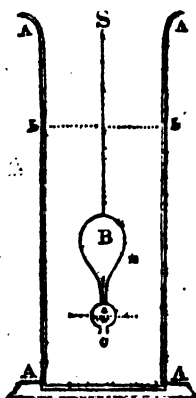
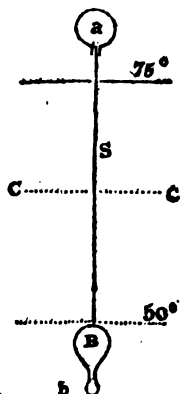


FIG. 1.



The next thing that occurred to me was to discover how this instrument could be employed as a Barometer only. This I effected by a small alteration, as follows.

AAAA (fig. 2) is a large glass vessel filled with water to bb: B, the ball, S, the stem as in the former experiments, only that the instrument is now weighted or balanced by the mercury m, in the ball B, which is hermetically sealed. Under the large ball B, another small ball aw, is fastened, having an opening, o, in its lower extremity. This float S, B, o, being adjusted by weights &c. to stand in the water so that the surface of the fluid may intersect the middle of the stem S, when the Barometer stands at changeable. The small ball aw, is partly filled with air, and partly with water, as shown by the dotted line. In this state of adjustment, should the air become heavier the pressure will be more upon the surface of the water at bb, which will occasion more water to pass through the hole o, into the small ball aw, the float will become heavier and consequently sink until it comes

to a balance, by causing more of the stem S, to be immersed in the water. The contrary will be the effect when the air becomes lighter.

It only remains to find by experiment whether the different proportions of the instrument be correct; this can be done in the following inanner. Remove the whole instrument, as above described, into a warm place; should the float sink when heated, the remedy is to adjust it with more air in the small ball aw, but should it rise by being heated, it must be adjusted with more water in the small ball: if it neither rise nor sink when heated, then and then only it is right, as in such case the absorption and contraction of the air in the small ball by cooling counterbalances the water as it becomes specifically heavier and *vice versa*.

But should the stem be too small it cannot stand at any determined height, or in other words, will not be a balance to the air at any height of the stem, because more water will go into the small ball aw, by its being depressed by the water's increasing depth or pressure, than space taken up by the stem S, in going through the same space, and should it be too large, the space it will move through, from the variations of the atmosphere will be but small; but when all its parts are duly proportioned and adjusted, it shows the *minute Barometrical changes* of the atmosphere more visibly than any instrument I have yet seen.

JOB RIDER.

Belfast May 15, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FOR AND AGAINST THE USE OF
TOBACCO.

A YOUNG man was extremely fond of smoking, but being persecuted by some of his female acquaintance, he consented to drop it for three months: a few weeks after he laid it aside, he wrote the following lamentation—The answer is from the pen of his female acquaintance.

THE FAREWELL.

Hail divine tobacco! In thee how

often do we find refuge from our cares? Thou potent restorer of the decayed energies of man!—in thee old age renews the pleasures of youth, for thy vivifying fumes ascend to the pericranium—nourishing and renewing the intellect as the dew of Heaven fertilizes the earth! Thou parent of blank verse! Thou last best gift of Heaven to way-worn man! without thee the wild Indian could not enjoy his being; without thee he would be a coward in war; he would cry out where is my courage? where is my strength? And the wise man would say, thou canst not be courageous or strong without tobacco, and he would go away disappointed to his tent. Even the warriors of Europe owe much of their prowess to thy invigorating influence. To thee and thy compatriot (the potatoe) we owe all that ennobles us as men, "health, strength, courage, and beauty." Go and convince the fair sex of the fatuity of their conduct, in not using it themselves, and prohibiting it to others—Thou soul of courage, and thou nerve of man, farewell for three long months—farewell.

AN IRISHMAN.

THE REPLY.

Woe unto thee, thou ill favoured weed! by thee, how often is our precious time wasted—thou potent enemy to the vigour of youth! By thee old age is reminded of its weakness, for thy stupifying fumes damp or extinguish the last sparks of youthful vigour, poisoning our faculties as the foggy winds prevent the fertility of the earth! Thou mortal enemy to true poetry, and parent of stupidity; thou last worst gift of foreigners to enervate our countrymen! Without thee the wild Indian would enjoy the effects of his industry; without thee he would be valiant in war; he would cry out, behold my courage! and the wise man would answer him saying, thou canst be courageous and strong, since thou hast ceased smoking, and he would go away well pleased to his tent. Even the warriors of Europe begin to be cowardly by means of thy enervating influence.

To thee and thy associate, whiskey, we owe all that degrades us as men, sickness, cowardice, weakness, laziness

and pallid countenance. Begone from the society of females, where thou sometimes intrudest—Thou death of Hila* begone for ever, thou miscreant, begone!

FLORA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

ON the sixteenth of May, a Portuguese vessel, from Pernambuco to Liverpool, delayed by contrary winds, cast anchor about three miles from shore, in a neighbouring bay: It was the first place she had stopped at since her departure from South America. and she was immediately visited by several fishermen and peasants, whom curiosity attracted to see the crew. These men returned with such a singular account of the strange appearance, the language and dress of these foreigners, that I also determined to visit them, and accordingly, at twelve o'clock the next day, I proceeded to the vessel in a four-oared boat, accompanied by five young gentlemen. The day was remarkably fine, and the countenances of my youthful company, during our little voyage, were lit up with all the gaiety and animation that brilliant sunshine and grand scenery could confer on innocence and health. As we approached the vessel, a groupe of sailors were leaning over the side, gazing at us with the most earnest curiosity; and their black plaited hair, their large dark eyes, their deep swarthy hue, with the long knives stuck in their girdles, all contributed to give them such an assassin-like aspect, that my terror for a moment subdued every other feeling, and shame alone prevented me from ordering the boat to row back. I saw my companions, one by one, climb up the vessel's side, and at length, not without considerable apprehension, I ventured on deck, where we were instantly surrounded by the sailors, who with the kindest looks and gestures, endeavoured to evince their pleasure at our visit; my uneasiness vanished; I found that I had mistaken national costume for actual villany, and mere colour for dark expression. They had an Irishman on

* The Goddess of Vivacity.

board, who was returning from Rio Janeiro, and who acted as their pilot and interpreter; by whose means we conversed with the captain. What particularly attracted their attention was, the brother of one of my companions, a fine boy, about seven years old; they took off his cap, they felt his flaxen hair, and loaded him with the most endearing caresses. The first and second mates were broken emigrants from Portugal, and both extremely handsome; the elder, who seemed about twenty-four, after several expressions of kindness, took out a guitar of a large form, and louder tone than any I had before seen or heard, and seating himself on deck, began to play a Brazilian air, and never shall I forget the impression it made on me; the light and fantastic measure, so different from our musical combinations, the tones of the instrument so new, so pleasing to my ear, the emotions of the performer's expressive features, as his fingers swept through every variation of the tune, filled me with sensations that shall remain in my mind a lasting treasure for reflection.

The performer expressed a wish to see my young companions dance, who immediately assenting, began a Scottish reel of four, and kept admirable time to a beautiful fandango tune. The crew collected in a circle around them; delight and satisfaction were pictured in every sun-burnt face, "*Star bon! star bon! benito Irelandese!*" reiterated from every voice. The dance concluded, we got into our boat; the whole crew saluted us with three cheers; we returned it, *con amore*, and as long as memory shall exert her faculty in my mind, I shall think with delight on the Brazilian fandango, and the foreign guitar. L.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

PERMIT me, sir, to take up a few pages of your valuable Magazine in drawing the attention of some of your readers to a subject not generally understood, especially by those whose business and employment it is.

"A large and elegant bridge, forming a way over a broad and rapid river, is justly esteemed one of the noblest

pieces of mechanism that man is capable of performing, and any attempts to advance the theory or practice, highly deserving the encouragement of the public."

As my profession is not that of an architect, very probably I should have been silent, had it not been from hearing and seeing every day, absurd things advanced on the subject.—I will not say a word of that *rickety* bridge near this town, on the Dublin road, which, if I am rightly informed, cost the public upwards of six hundred pounds sterling!!!—nor do I wish to wound the feelings of its architect, but rather to give him a friendly hint lest he fall into similar errors in his present construction.

When a bridge is deemed necessary to be built over a river, the first consideration is the plan of it, or what particular situation will contain a maximum of the advantages over the disadvantages.

The breadth of the river, the navigation upon it, and the velocity and depth of the stream, form considerations of great moment. In most cases, a wider part of the river ought rather to be chosen than a narrow one, especially if it is subject to great tides or floods; for the increased velocity of the stream in the narrow part being again augmented by the further contraction of the breadth, will both incommode the navigation through the arches, undermine the piers, and endanger the whole bridge. With respect to the form of a bridge, strength, utility, and beauty, ought to be regarded and united, the chief of which lies in the arches.

In fixing on the number of arches, let an odd number always be taken, and few and large ones rather than many and smaller: for thus we shall have not only fewer foundations and piers to make, but fewer arches and centres, which will produce great savings in the expense.

The elliptical arch is in general the best form for most bridges, as it can be made of any height to the same span, or of any span to the same height, while at the same time its haunches are sufficiently strong and elevated above the water, even when it is flat at top—a property which the

other curves are not in the same degree possessed of. The joints of fracture, or the parts most likely to give way, are at the haunches, and the property in this curve is such, that after an arch is built, and the centering truck, it settles more about the haunches than at any of the other parts.

Elliptical arches also look bolder, are really stronger, and require less materials and labour than any others. The cycloidal arch is next in quality to the elliptical, and lastly, the circle.

The elliptic arch of equilibration, is that which is in equilibrium in all its parts, having no tendency to give way in one place more than another, and is therefore recommended as the most durable, commodious, and beautiful of all arches. Every particular figure of the extrados above an arch, requires a particular curve for the under side of the arch itself, to form an arch of equilibration, so that the incumbent pressure on every part may be proportional to the strength or resistance here. When the arch is equally thick throughout (a case that can hardly ever happen) there the catenarian curve is the arch of equilibration, but in no other case whatever; and therefore it is a great mistake to suppose that this curve is the best figure for arches in all cases, when in reality it is the worst.

The catenarian curve, is that form which a chain or rope takes, by hanging freely from two horizontal points of suspension.

As the choice of the arch is of so great moment, let no person either through ignorance or indolence prefer worse than what is here recommended, because it may seem to him easier to construct; for he would ill deserve the name or employment of an architect, who is not capable of understanding the exact construction of every curve easy and familiar to himself; but if by chance a *bridge-builder* could be employed, who is incapable of doing that, he ought at least to have so much honesty as to procure some person to go through the calculations which he cannot make for himself.

Any of your readers who wish for further information on this subject, are referred to Dr. Hutton's Principles of

Bridges, where they will find the matter fully explained. It is to this work I am principally indebted for the present remarks.—But, Mr. Editor, if I can spare time, and that no person better qualified takes up the subject, I will send you easy and correct rules deduced from first principles, adapted chiefly for those who have not studied the subject in a mathematical point of view. M'C.

Belfast, 22d May, 1809.

For the Belfast Magazine.

A DIALOGUE.

AN OLD MAN IS QUIETLY WALKING ALONG,
A TRAVELLER COMES AND ACCOSTS HIM.

TRAV. Good morning.

Old M. Good morning to you kindly.

Tra. Can you tell me the way to Wexford?

Old M. That I can, for I know the place too well; I am going within a mile of the town, and we can travel together. You seem to be a stranger in the country.

Tra. So I am, although I was born here; but I went to sea when I was a boy, and never saw my native country since.

Old M. Oh! then, it is woefully changed since that time. The rebellion made sad havock.

Tra. The rebellion! I was in England at the time. Did you lose any thing by it?

Old M. Yes (*sighing*) I lost every thing, I may say; it happened this time eleven years; I remember it well, for my poor boy joined them; Oh! it was a sorrowful day to me!

Tra. Was he compelled to join them?

Old M. Yes, his high spirit compelled him. He could not bear to be whipped like a dog, all innocent as he was.

Tra. Whipped!—for what reason? I thought none but the guilty were whipped.

Old M. No, he was as innocent as a child, and ever loyal to his king; but he was poor and suspected, and that was enough for them. When they came to take my poor, poor boy out, he was teaching his little sister to write, for that was his business when he came home from his work; and my wife

and I were sitting smoking, thinking how happy we were to have such a good son. Oh! I thought my poor wife's heart would break when she saw him going. She fell on her knees, and begged them not to take the prop of her old age from her, for she thought she would never recover it. He had a fever long after, which my wife caught in attending him; for, poor woman! she never lay down the whole time, but still watching him. He recovered, but she never did; she is in a better place, so I ought not to fret. (*wiping his eyes.*)

Tra. And where is your son!

Old M. Oh! sir, he is with his poor mother, in heaven; for, as I told you before, sir, he joined the rebels: he thought he was serving his country, but when he saw the cruelty of his own party, he repented, and was coming to give up his arms, when a party of soldiers met him, and took him up; and when he would not inform, they shot him. Poor fellow, he thought it a mean and cowardly thing to be an informer. Well then, they came to my little cabin, and set it on fire. My little girl was burned to death, and old as I am, they would have killed me, only I happened to be out, for nothing was too bad for them to do. So, you see, sir, I had my sufferings; and many more, like me, were left without a child to close their eyes. So now, sir, I bid you good morning—that's your road.

SYLVIA.

For the Belfast Magazine.

I PERCEIVE that your pages are open to free discussion on literary subjects, and that the *shadow of a mighty name* affords no protection to the possessor of it, whether living or dead, from the censure of just criticism.

The paradoxes of Rousseau are probably known to your readers, by which he advocates the savage life in preference to the advantages of civilization. Some of your readers, perhaps, may not be acquainted with the secret history of his essay on the inequality of man, which he wrote in answer to the question proposed by the academy of Dijon. "What is the origin of the inequality among men? and, if it be

authorized by the law of nature?" He himself describes his sensations, on resolving to write in favour of the savage state, as rising to ecstasy; and that he was so penetrated with his subject, as to shed many tears. This is all very fine, but he appears only to have been an actor; for, in the memoirs of Mar-montel, written by him-self, we are assured, on the authority of Diderot, that Rousseau had at first designed to write in favour of civilization, and was resolved to exercise all his powers in its cause. He mentioned his design to Diderot, who observed, that other candidates would, doubtless, display the benefits derived from social improvements; and that it was a path in which he would not be distinguished from the dunces. "C'est un pont aux anes," (a bridge that every animal may pass) was the expression of Diderot. Rousseau changed his plan, and gratified his vanity and love of paradox, by writing in favour of the savage state. Rather than take the vulgar road, he whimsically adduces the advantages of nakedness, inclement seasons, ignorance the most profound, privations of all the comforts of social intercourse, and the society of animals, scarcely inferior to his favourite savage.

A READER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

I HAVE been your constant reader since the first publication of the Belfast Magazine. With some of your essays I have been highly pleased and instructed. I will trust to your candour to allow me to say, I have also seen some papers in the Magazine, which I do not admire; and which did not even please the class of readers for whom the tales were intended. Some of the tales want consistency of character, and I hope Maria will allow me to mention, a few objections to *Rosa*. Mrs. Woodley speaking of *Shayboy*, *knowed*, *sartaint*, *aring*, and *larning* is not characteristic of English manners; the English have a different phraseology: such words are more used by the poorer classes of the Irish whose poverty too frequently prevents them from getting instruction.

Passing over some other things which I do not admire, I must say, I agree with Maria in the conclusion of the tale, when she speaks of scandal. I have sat present many times when I have been astonished at the malignant pleasure, some persons took in aspersing the characters of their neighbours, either by insinuations or more positive assertions. A diffidence of my own abilities has often prevented me from expressing the indignation I have felt at such conversation. While I thus condemn scandal, I must admit that a dread of public censure may have its use in making us careful to have our conduct and behaviour always regulated by the strictest propriety. If we are conscious that it is such as is proper we may be assured that even if scandal point her poisoned arrow at us, the tale will not be generally believed, and thus, to a certain degree we may live above the reach of censorious tongues, whose malice is best defeated by innocence, and the necessary caution to shun the appearance as well as the reality of error, in the manner of conducting ourselves. Female honour is of a peculiarly delicate nature; indiscretion may lead us to become really vicious, it often leads us to have the appearance of being so without the actual guilt. If we are sometimes falsely censured, the consciousness of our own integrity and uprightness of conduct will support us under the insinuations and aspersions of the malevolent and censorious.

S.Y.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SOME years ago when travelling in England, I twice passed through the Potteries of Staffordshire; I shall give the result of my observations.—

First passed them in the night; the flames issuing from the furnaces had a curious effect, when viewed for the first time; I was also struck with an idea of the great wealth of England, and wondered less at her capabilities to carry on her destructive wars, when

beheld such vast capital invested in one single article of manufacture, the earthen ware, which in comparison of some others, would rather appear of minor importance.

These potteries lie in the north west part of Staffordshire, and form a nearly connected extension of villages for several miles, under different names, as Burslem, Hanley-Green, Ltruria, &c.

From these extensive manufactories are supplied not only the common articles of earthen ware now in so general use amongst all ranks, but also the finer kinds both for use and ornament, which from the inventive genius of the celebrated Wedgwood and others, have attained to such hitherto unrivalled perfection.

My second visit through this extremely populous quarter, was on a summer's evening: I was surprised to find such crowds of people in a state of idleness, men, women, and boys: many of whom, even boys not exceeding 15 or 16, in a state of gross intoxication. I had previously formed an opinion that in England, the people were comparatively more sober than in Ireland: I inquired if it was fair time, or any particular festival; but was answered in the negative: I found it was only St. Monday, and that the workmen finding they could subsist on the high wages which they received for working during part of the week, squandered their earnings in this pernicious manner. I had formerly been a strong advocate for high wages to the working classes of the community, in hopes they might tend to increase their comforts and elevate their views to some higher attainment of intellectual knowledge. But I was somewhat confounded in my former theories, and saw cause to consider that high wages often produce a contrary effect, unless those who receive them have been previously trained to make a good use of them, and to employ their leisure for the purposes of real improvement. It was necessary however to guard myself from misanthropic views, and having found my former theory in part untenable, from falling into the opposite extreme, of considering the working classes merely as beasts of burden, to produce profit to their employers, the rich capitalists. I lamented that the present system of education and public instruction, was not better calculated for fitting the various ranks of society to discharge their respective

duties with propriety, and turning the current of public opinion and example in favour of virtue: as I am thoroughly persuaded that example, and the direction of public manners hence derived, are of far greater consequence than direct instruction.

On making inquiry I found, that owing to a competition among the employers, wages had risen greatly, and that a bad use was made of their superfluous earnings. It is a pity that they took this wrong direction. The instance mentioned in a late commercial report, of the work people employed at the cotton factory at Rothsay in the Isle of Bute, purchasing a library, and employing their leisure hours in reading, forms a pleasing contrast to the misapplication of time and money by the inhabitants of the Potteries. K.

VIRTUE, REASON AND LOVE, AN ALLEGORY.

REASON and Love were the daughters of Virtue; they were both amiable, but Love was more open and possessed less genius than her sister; she was always guided by her and never formed an attachment without her approbation. Her mother's old enemy, the Cyprian queen, had a son whose name also was Love, who often disguised himself under a feigned appearance, but to distinguish him from the daughter of Virtue, he was called Cupid. He inspired mortals with a flame, which not being approved by Reason, soon expired. The two sisters were one day walking, and entering a wood they beheld a sleeping infant: by its side sat Humanity weeping. "Alas," said she, "this beautiful babe was left here no doubt by some unnatural parent, do not let it perish." Love snatched the babe in her arms, saying—"henceforth this shall be my charge." The child grew under the care of Love and imbibed some of her virtues, but she could not withstand the attacks of Cupid who continually presented himself in the shape of her benefactress. In vain Reason expostulated, and Love suffered many painful moments to see her thus led astray. Virtue came one day to see her daughters, who begged she would use her in-

fluence to recall their protégée to her duty. She called to her and spoke as follows. "My dear child, I am displeased with your ingratitude, as well as surprised at your ignorance: my daughters found you a desolate child, they brought you from misery and took care of you, and yet you have not learned to distinguish between them and their worst enemy; Follow the advice of Reason, and you will be safe from his attacks, if you do not, you will feel the ill effects of your conduct; on the contrary if you overcome your weakness, you will have for your reward this crown of flowers; you will resemble in humility the violet which adorns it; and the primrose in modesty; the sweetness of your heart will spread the perfume of the jessamine and lily of the valley. Be spotless like them. The wreath of never fading roses is thornless. I will be glad to bestow it upon you. Know, dear child! when possessed of this crown you will have everlasting happiness and glory. Go endeavour to win it. I wish you success. "With that she embraced her. The heart of the young maid was touched with the words of Virtue, and she turned her thoughts to gain the crown endowed with such precious gifts. FLORELLA.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME REMARKS ON STERNE.

SIR,

I THINK that I am a friend to free discussion on all subjects, when conducted with candour and decency. Whether it were the want of these qualities in the communication by "A Reader," in your magazine of December last, in which he drags forth some very improbable anecdotes of Sterne, that made it excite in me so strong a feeling of disapprobation, I cannot positively assert. It is however certain that the paper I have just mentioned, signed "A Reader," his defence of it in February, and lately your "Lover of Simplicity of Character" in the magazine of last month, who has made common cause against poor Laurence—have each of them produced sensations in the per-

used that meet difference of opinion could not. But the candour they seem to have violated with Sterne must not be withheld from his accusers. Suppose they are allowed the plea which they appear anxious to assume; that of advocating the cause of morality, does this require a recurrence to mean disgusting personalities, and the more ample propagation of avowed scandal—a-
vowed even in the place where it was produced? Surely no: the advocate of a good cause disdains the alliance of baseness, he has nobler weapons to wield; if he cannot conquer with these he does not injure it by his management, nor endeavour to enlist the worst passions of mankind in his favour by nurturing their natural malignancy against superiority of character. But Sir, if we recur to the pretended facts stated in the anecdotes, they confute themselves, and can only injure Sterne's character with the indolent, or those already prejudiced and who are unwilling to have their prejudices removed. The story of his mother is totally undeserving of notice: your correspondent "A. B." in the Number for January, has well observed on its improbability, and in fact his enemies of whom no man had more, more prejudiced or more inveterate—even his enemies were ashamed of it long before his death, and it seems now brought forward with the uncandid intention of attaching obloquy more surely to his memory from the supposed impossibility of refutation.

The next anecdote is about his Daughter, related by a Mr. H—as told him by *Dr. Marriot*! There are few people in Belfast of thirty years standing who would look much farther than that name for solving this difficulty. Many of them have smarted under the lash of Dr. M——'s termagant muse, and did we not commonly look with unequal eyes on our own case and that of our neighbour, a very exaggerated statement would be immediately perceived, and the little that might really remain highly touched with the Doctor's usual colouring. Is it probable that Dr. Marriot and his family would allow a young lady in the state Miss

Sterne is described, and for the length of time which the delays suppose to remain lying on the floor? If so, the inhumanity imputed to Tristram remains with Miss Marriot and her Father.

The ridicule attempted to be introduced into the latter part of this story, strongly excited my indignation. It shows how easily little things, and innocent things, can be perverted, in order to load with contempt the object of our aversion.

The only charge brought "in a tangible shape" against the writings of Sterne by the "Reader" and "Lover of Simplicity" is obscenity, a heavy charge it well founded. All we have on this head however, is, that one of them tried to read the two first chapters of *Tristram Shandy* and could not get through them. Poor Gentleman! yet many worthy people with as much *real* delicacy as he affects to possess, have accomplished reading the two first and all the other chapters of this terrible book. Not that I mean to say that it is an unexceptionable production, or that there are not many passages in his books, or rather in this one and his *Sentimental Journey*, which would have been better omitted. His wit often led him to use expressions that excite the imagination of his readers in a way not favourable to the government of the passions. This, in a professed moralist would not be tolerated, but in a writer whose first aim was amusement, it is more pardonable, especially when he leads through flowery paths to the most excellent employment of a human being, the exercise of beneficence, charity and mercy.

The goodness of the end is the first, the means to attain it the second consideration. Sterne designed to exhibit the frivolity, the injustice, the ignorance, and the prejudices of mankind in such a form as they could not fail to condemn; thinking when this point was gained they must feel some reluctance at continuing the practice. He did not stop here, he studiously brought forwards the best principles of our nature, placed them in a new and beautiful light, decorated them with all the charms of eloquence and the easy playfulness of

wit. In doing this he might in the consciousness of innocence use a latitude of allusion not altogether acceptable to colder or more chastened imaginations; and this I believe he frequently did without apprehending the consequences that might ensue from it in hearts not so pure as his own. This was imprudence, not vice; and this same imprudence was an original defect in his temperament, the effects of which, to his cost, he felt all his days: "For had mitres rained down from heaven as thick as hail, his head was so disfigured with the ugly blows which his adversaries had given him in the dark, not one of them could fit it." Alas, poor Yorick! thine adversaries need not now sculk into corners when they aim their blows at thee; they are secure from chastisement: the ass may now trample on the fallen lion.

The authority of Samuel Richardson, a good man I believe, and a writer of considerable celebrity, is introduced as a *coupe de main*, as a finishing blow, to overwhelm this poor victim of prejudice, and his advocates, with dismay and confusion. Our author says somewhere, that, "let a man be but true to himself, and one man is as good as another all the world over:" this I felt to be true on first reading the passage, I suppose thirty years ago, and I never had reason to entertain a doubt of it since. I say then Sir, that I feel no respect for authority; but the authority of superior virtue. Where morality, religion, or government are the subjects, as I must stand or fall by my own opinion, I yield not my judgment to Pope or Prince, or any human authority however great, respectable, or learned. Truth is simple, and the way to it short, and the untutored mind that loves it sincerely need never fear embracing a counterfeit in its stead. The meanest and most unlearned appreciate the value of right conduct, and have as quick a perception of justice, as those in a more dignified rank and having all the advantages of education. They can feel with equal certainty what effect any book they read produces upon their temper and disposition, if it makes them laugh or cry, love or hate virtue

or vice more than before, whether they feel a greater desire to do good and a greater reluctance to commit bad actions than formerly. Surely in this case there is no need to consult Samuel Richardson, nor appeal to the sickly delicacy of the fastidious young lady his daughter's correspondent. The readers of Sterne can appeal to a surer guide, and will therefore take the liberty of judging for themselves, and for the cause of morality and decency as involved in his and their conduct. A critic oversteps his duty when he condescends to scrutinize the person and private conduct of an author, more especially if he draws his information from doubtful and impure sources. When he notices the tendency of a work, observes upon the composition, style, and manner of execution, he has warned the public: and according to the report, and the confidence they put in the ability and integrity of the reporter, will they be inclined to encourage or reprobate the production, but ultimately individuals must judge for themselves. Whether your two correspondents have observed the rules of justice and christian candour in the remarks they have thought proper to make on an author long admired, and long since incapable of speaking for himself, I leave to the private judgment of their own hearts, the public will not fail to decide that part of the cause which comes within its sphere. I must observe however, that were authority to decide, Sterne's advocates would be found more numerous than those who deny him, and equally respectable for talent and integrity.

One of these gentlemen, I forget which now, seems to have a great veneration for *English* ladies, and with an un-Irish gallantry withholds homage from his country women. I certainly yield not to him in respect and attachment to the sex, and I can hail with equal honour those who have stood forth the champions of reason and virtue; yet I avow a predilection for my country-women who I know are equal—nay more than equal in every perfection, in every estimable natural and acquired accomplishment to those of any country upon earth. I have not read any of

the two productions of Miss Owenson he mentions, which I intend doing as soon as I have leisure, but I have her other works, and have in general thought highly of them, and must request permission to consider it as great an honour to have that fair writer my country woman, as if her name was enrolled in the pompous list above alluded to. Her latter writings must indeed have fallen extremely short of her former, if they do not add to her fame, with them make her an ornament to her sex and country, and merit for her the honourable appellation of "a truly patriotic Irish-woman."

I have now, Sir, given you some trouble, which you'll be pleased to put to the account of your "Lover of Simplicity of character," for although I felt a kind of horror at the "anecdotes" and the rejoinder, yet but for his pertinacity I should never have been able to conquer my natural reluctance to appear in your pages. I will therefore take my leave of you and your readers without any apology, and intend henceforth to leave Sterne to his own merits and the candid construction of his readers; perfectly agreeing with what was happily expressed, I think by himself, that, his books may be contemplated with the same innocence and purity of thought as a beautiful infant sprawling naked on the floor. T.

Belfast, May 18th, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SKETCH OF A RAMBLE TO ANTRIM,
TAKEN JULY 10TH, 1808.

I LEFT Carrickfergus just as the sun began to make his appearance in the Eastern horizon, and took the road leading to Antrim, by the way of Ballyclare. The morning was one of the finest I had ever seen; not a leaf shook with the wind; even the morning zephyr subdued, and nought disturbed the silence, save the bay of the watch-dogs, in the print-fields by which I passed. During the night there had been a copious fall of dew, which being now struck by the oblique rays of the rising sun, glittered on each leaf like innumerable pearls; my soul felt the harmony of the scene; for, to use the words of the poet:

..... "all things smiled
"With fragrance, and with joy my heart
"o'erflow'd."

I wanted, however, the morn'g song of the birds to enliven this charming scene, for nought was heard of their late carols, but here and there a chirping of the mother and her young among the hedges.

"The groves, the fields, the meadows,
"now no more

"With melody resound; 'tis silence all,
"As if the lovely songsters, overwhelm'd

"By bounteous nature's plenty, lay in-
"tranced

"In drowsy lethargy."

I soon ascended the hill called Bryan-tang, and looking back, had a fine view of the town and castle, the Copeland isles, the opposite shore of Down, the entrance of the bay, and several vessels becalmed in the offing. I stood a few minutes contemplating the prospect before me, when the notes of a thrush in the adjacent glen roused my attention, and seemed to hail the rays of the rising sun with the utmost raptures. I listened a little to its charming melody, then quickly pursued my journey, and leaving the main road, ascended the hill called Slieve-true, on the top of which is a large cairn of stones, supposed to be an ancient funeral pile of the dead. I ascended the cairn to enjoy the charming prospect which it affords; it is truly grand, especially the view of the valley extending from Loughneagh to Larne, a space of about sixteen miles in length, and, at a mean, about seven in breadth; the country had a very pleasant appearance, being generally in a high state of cultivation, interspersed with numerous villages, villas and bleach greens; the sight recalled to my memory these lines of the poet,

"O vale of bliss! O softly-swelling hills,
"On which the power of cultivation lies,
"And joys to see the wonders of his toil."

A part of the town of Belfast is seen from hence; also the mountains of Mourne, and some high hills in the counties of Tyrone and Derry; the morning being pretty clear, I saw likewise some of the mountains of Scotland, and the Isle of Man. About twelve years ago, James Craig, esq. M. P. proprietor of the soil, built an elegant school-house here, but from its stormy situation in winter, and the

danger the children were exposed to in summer from cattle, it was deserted, and is in a very ruinous state at present; an antiquarian of the next century will probably suppose it to have been an ancient fortress. I now descended from the cairn, and leaving the hill, shaped my course for the house of an acquaintance who lived adjacent: on lifting the latch I entered, but he was not up; he quickly arose, and eagerly inquired the cause of my early visit, and having told him, he proposed to accompany me. I now began to rally him for not having his door fastened inside; but he said, that he was in no danger from robbers, and repeated these lines:

“He that has just enough can soundly
“sleep,

“The o’ercome only fashes fowk to keep.”

He now kindled some heath, for the purpose of getting ready breakfast, and I sat down in a corner to look at a number of books, which were promiscuously mixed with the implements of his trade; they consisted of several odd volumes of plays, novels, and political tracts, as *Billy Bluff*, &c. I inquired if this was his whole library, of which I had heard him say so much; he answered in the negative, and opening a book case, bade me look there: it was really crammed with books chiefly select, as *Hume’s History of England*, *Gibbon’s Decline of the Roman Empire*, *Gordon’s History of Ireland*, *Heron’s Scotland*, several modern tours, and a large collection of magazines. The novels and poetical works I found equally elegant, and very numerous. By the time I had turned over these books, breakfast was ready, and we both made a hearty meal, and departed. The soil here is poor, and as there is nothing striking in its scenery, I hope the reader will not be displeased with a sketch of the person and character of my fellow-traveller, who, I conclude, he thinks is somewhat eccentric. In person he is of the middle size; the outlines of his features, according to Lavater, rather unmeaning, and displaying little trace of that knowledge he is really possessed of; his temper is of the most even class, not easily raised nor depressed; in religion and politics his opinions are

very liberal; but it is said, he has “studied himself into infidelity;” yet from his inoffensive demeanor, he is ranked among the best of unbelievers; his powers of description are very faint, yet there are few persons better acquainted with the natural curiosities of this and the neighbouring islands. But to return to my narrative: after travelling about two or three miles across a country not very remarkable for the neatness of its cultivation, we came in sight of Ballyclare; at the sight of this small town,

“Remembrance wak’d, with all her busy
“train.”

It was my native place, and upwards of eleven years had elapsed since slander had driven me hence. I could not pass the little bridge, as you enter the town from Belfast, without halting. I leaned against the range wall—the sight gave my mind a melancholy cast—to me each object was interesting—every look reminded me of some juvenile amusement—at my feet was the place where I had whipped the top—beneath was the little pool where I used to snare the trout and eel—close by was the hawthorn hedge, where often I had made my childish plays—and a few perches distant was my native cot; the scene affected me, and was productive of the following lines:

Hail! little stream, still to me dear,

Here memory presents to view
Those happy scenes, which on thy banks
In youthful innocence I knew.

On yonder green, when school let loose,

The village youth to sport and play,
The noisy groups oft, oft, I join’d
In rural sports, till close of day.

Beneath yon hedge I oft have sat,

With others, making noisy glee;
The trees, the stones, that’s heresabout,
As old acquaintance here I see.

I see the cot where first I drew

The vital air in of this clay;

And may * * * *

Whose slander forc’d me hence to stray

Here years rolled by most unperceiv’d,

Free from all care, in thoughtless ease;

My pastimes now, though more refin’d,

Have not the charm, alas! to please.

Corroding care now fills my breast;

Yet when sweet hope does lend a gleam,

And earthly joys presents to view,

The scene is ever by thy stream,

My comrade, who sat patiently while I took down the above lines, now urged me to renew our journey. I arose, not without emotion, and we resolved to take the upper road by Doagh; but first it will be necessary to give the reader an account of Ballyclare, before we proceed further.

Ballyclare is pleasantly situated on the six-mile water, which runs through it, and is joined by a bridge with four arches. It consists of 102 dwelling-houses, containing about 500 inhabitants; the inhabitants and houses are nearly double what they were about thirty years ago. Near the centre of the town is a meeting-house belonging to Dissenters, but there is no established church here; yet as the people are nearly to a man Dissenters, besides mostly free from tythe, the want is not much regretted. Here is held a large monthly market for linen-yarn, &c. Fairs are also held near each quarterly term. It is also a post town. Some cotton is wrought here, but the mass of the people in the town and neighbourhood are employed at the linen business. Near the town is a cotton bleachfield, which employs a considerable number of hands. There is also a paper-mill. Adjoining the town are two Danish rafts. The soil here is mostly a light mould, and pretty good, but in general cultivated in a slovenly manner. As I passed through, I looked for the little school-house where I first learned to read—it was now a ruin, and seemed to

‘Ask from my heart the homage of a sigh.’

And, courteous reader, a sigh was not refused. The morning continuing calm and warm, we walked slowly, musing as we jogged along, on the universal beauty of the face of nature at this delightful season of the year; indeed she is now decked in her gayest attire; the trees are all in full foliage; very little meadow is cut down; the flax is in bloom; even the late potatoes, to use the farmer's phrase, have covered the clod, while those set early bespangle the fields with innumerable variegated blossoms; the corn has also begun to shoot forth its ragged head from confinement, as if to witness the general beauty of the scene—

“And all the earth with short-lived beauty
“glows.”

Time and road both passing agreeably we soon reached Fisherwick, an elegant hunting lodge belonging to the Marquis of Donegall, near Doagh; the sight surprized me, as I had not been in this part for several years; the country had assumed a new face; the cabins of the peasantry had been thrown down to make room for stables, dog-kennels, &c. and instead of the fields rustling with corn, or blooming with the potatoe ridges of the neighbouring villagers, as when I saw them last, they presented tufts of young trees, shrubberies, walks, and fish-ponds, on the surface of which was a pleasure boat, and some beautiful swans. The man of pleasure may probably relish this “barren splendour;” as for me, I beheld it with regret, especially when those lines of Goldsmith struck my memory:

“The man of wealth and pride
“Takes up a space that many poor sup-
“plied;
“Space for his lake, his park's extended
“bounds;
“Space for his horses, equipage, and
“hounds.”

The same author also very justly remarks:

“Thus fares the land by luxury betray'd,
“In nature's simplest charms at first
“array'd,
“But verging to decline, its splendour
“rise,
“Its vistas strike, its palaces surprize;
“While scourg'd by famine, from the
“smiling land
“The mournful peasant leads his humble
“band;
“And while he sinks, without one arm to
“save,
“The country blooms, a garden and a
“grave.”

Indeed, at present, the rage for villas in this country, is not confined to the nobleman or landed gentleman, it has come to the merchant, and in some instances even to the mechanic. Leaving this place, we entered Doagh; this is a small village, consisting of about thirty dwelling-houses, situated on the road leading from Belfast to Ballymena, and about ten miles from each place. It contains nothing remarkable except its book clubs, which are the most ancient and extensive in this part of the country, the people generally having a taste for literature. Their club-room is furnished with globes,

maps, &c. Much praise is due to Mr. W. Galt, for his exertions in promoting these and similar societies, instead of the Royal sport of cock-fighting, &c. so very destructive of the morals of the lower orders of the people. Here is a neat inn, which we entered to take some refreshment; it is exceedingly regular and clean; in short, I think its whole appearance would have given satisfaction even to Mr. Tiviss himself. We halted only a short time here, and leaving the main road, crossed the country to Hole-stone, the seat of Mr. Owens; this place takes its name from a very singular stone, set upright a few fields from his house. This stone stands on a rising crag, and is five feet high above the ground, and seemingly about two feet below it; it is three feet in breadth, and nine inches thick; three feet from the ground is a round hole through it, wide enough to admit a man's hand. tradition says, this stone was a land mark of the ancient Irish chieftains. We now pushed forward for Donogore hill, being curious to see the post of the insurgents of this quarter, on the 7th of June, 1798, where we soon arrived, much fatigued, the day being now very warm: we sat down on a crag near its centre; and as this hill has obtained a place in modern history, I hope a short description of it will not be displeasing to the reader. This hill rises on each side by a gradual ascent, the summit is flat, and completely commands the adjacent country; the surface is covered with a light stratum of earth, overgrown with moss; the hill seems formed of a huge rock, as crags appear in several places. The adjoining country is mostly very fertile, intersected with numerous hedges, &c. which would considerably impede the approach of troops. To be as short as possible, I believe there is not a better position for an encampment of ten or twelve thousand men any where in Ireland. The assemblage of people here on the 7th of June, 1798, was of short duration; for on some fugitives arriving from Antrim, after the action there, the people instantly dispersed. From this hill there is a delightful view of the adjoining country, as also of Lough-neagh, which has more the appearance of a sea than a lough; Rams-

island*, with its round tower; Shane's castle, Randalstown, Antrim, also the round tower near it; Templepatrick, likewise Castle Upton near it; also the neighbouring hill of Kairncary, on the top of which I was informed there was a large cairn of stones, similar to that on Slieve-truë. We now arose and departed, and descending from the hill, passed by a large rock called the Priest's Crag, directing our course for the round tower near Antrim. The land we passed over was generally light mould, and seemed to need manure very much; however, as we approached Antrim it became much better, and we passed some fields of excellent wheat, in that state so finely described by Bloomfield:

" Shot up from broad rank blades that
 " droop below,
 " The nodding wheat-ear forms a grace-
 " ful bow;
 " With milky kernels, starting full,
 " weigh'd down,
 " Ere yet the sun had ting'd its head
 " with brown."

We now arrived at the lofty round tower, it stands about half a mile from Antrim; in low ground, in a yard near the road leading from Antrim to Ballymena. We inquired at a house close by, if we could be permitted to enter the yard, to take a more minute view; a genteel elderly woman answered in the affirmative, and with the utmost affability, conducted us thither. This tower is perfectly round, both internally and externally, and is but little impaired by time; it is very high, and tapers about eighteen feet from the top in form of a sugar loaf; it is fifty-two feet in girth near the base, and seemingly about thirty-six near the top, before it begins to taper. At the ground are two circles of stones, projecting about eight inches each; nine feet above these stones is a small door facing the north, there are no steps up to the door, nor any appearance of its ever having had such. There are three tier of loop-holes, for the admission of air and light; those near the top are round, and correspond

* This is a small island in Lough-neagh, situated about two miles from the county Antrim shore; and contains about seven acres of pasture. On it is one of the round towers, so common in Ireland.

with the four cardinal points; within are places in the wall for resting beams, evidently for the purpose of making the tower into storie. The masonry is good, and the wall upwards of three feet thick; the loop-holes and door are arched with hewn stone. Much attention is paid by the gentleman in whose yard it stands to this monument of antiquity, as he has had its base plastered, &c. within these few years. Tradition says the town of Antrim formerly stood here, and that this tower was built by a woman, but for what use is not mentioned even by tradition*. Having satisfied ourselves as far as possible, and returned sincere thanks to our kind conductress, we proceeded to Antrim, passing some fields of blooming potatoes set in drills, which for neatness of cultivation I never remember to have seen equalled. Antrim (antiently Andruim) is a market and Post town, situated near Lough-neagh, on the banks of the six-mile-water, which disembogues itself into the lough a little below the town; it is 84 miles north of Dublin, and 12 N.W. of Belfast; it consists chiefly of one long street, the houses whereof are built of stone, brick, and clay, and are generally in a ruinous state; the number of dwelling-houses, or huts (for really the lanes, &c. are mostly miserable mud hovels) is 432; supposed number of inhabitants 2,500. The parish church stands near the centre of the town, it has no spire;

* Concerning the erection and use of these towers, history and tradition are both silent, consequently the learned have only been able to furnish us with hypothesis on that subject. Cambrensis speaks of them in the twelfth century, as being of great antiquity, but gives no intimation of their original use. Ledwich thinks they were built for belfries to the ancient churches. This, I think, is not improbable, as it is known, that the primitive churches in this kingdom were constructed with wattles, or willows, wrought in the manner of wicker-work. General Vallancey supposes they were built by the Phœnicians, or Carthaginians, in their visits to Ireland, for fire altars, depositories of the sacred fire. The latest remarks upon them are by Dr. Milner, who thinks they were built as habitations for certain religious recluses, in the early ages of Christianity.

a small belfry has been lately erected, furnished with a clock and bell; there are also two meeting-houses belonging to Dissenters. The Market-house stands in the street, at the west end of the town; it is a neat building, supported by pillars; above is a large room where the sessions are held. A market is held here each Thursday, but it is not very large. Near the market place is Mazareene castle, an old building; like every thing here, it is in a tottering state, and rapidly going to ruin. Here are large flour mills, likewise some breweries. Near the town is a small spring of Chalybeate water, much used for various diseases. The soil near the town is very good, and during summer the inhabitants make some excellent cheese for sale. A considerable number of hands are employed here in weaving cotton; the work all belongs to merchants from Carrickfergus or Belfast, who have offices here. Previous to the Union this was a potwalloping borough, under the influence of the Skeffington family, who, at the the Union, are said to have received 16,000*l.* as a compensation for their loss of the same. Few inland towns in Ireland are better situated for trade than this, on account of its proximity to Lough-neagh; yet with this great advantage there is very little commerce here. June 7th, 1798, a smart action took place here between a party of the king's troops, and a large body of the insurgents; the latter were at first successful, and obtained possession of the town, but reinforcements arriving to the army from Belfast, &c. the insurgents fled in great confusion, leaving behind them three pieces of cannon; two of them had been previously taken from the army. The loss of the army on this occasion was twenty-one killed, and between thirty and forty wounded. The loss of the insurgents could never be correctly known, but is supposed to have amounted to nearly three hundred. Our perambulation having now sufficiently whetted our appetites, we entered a public house to take some refreshment; the landlady happened to be an old acquaintance, and received us with the utmost courtesy; and after fetching in some whiskey, brought us a more essential refreshment.

(To be continued.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

WE willingly lend our aid to the more generally diffusing of the following cautions recommended by the physicians and surgeons of the Bath Hospital, to plumbers, painters, glaziers, and other artificers, who are exposed to the action of the poison of lead.

We earnestly recommend these cautions to workmen engaged in such trades. A little caution may prevent disease and much consequent suffering.

To maintain the strictest temperance particularly respecting distilled spirits, which had better be altogether forborne—to pay the strictest attention to cleanliness, and never, when it can be avoided, to dab their hands with paint, and particularly never to eat their meat, or go to rest, without washing their hands and face. Not to eat or drink in the room or place wherein they work, and much less to suffer any food or drink to remain exposed to the fumes or dust of the metal in the workshops or warehouses. As the clothes of persons in this line (painters particularly) are generally observed to be much soiled with the colours they use, it is recommended to them to perform their work in frocks of ticken which may be frequently washed, and conveniently laid aside when the workmen go to their meals; and again put on when they resume their work. Every business which can, in these branches, should be performed with gloves on the hands, and woollen or worsted gloves are recommended; as they may be often washed, as they should always be after being soiled with paint, or even by rubbing against the metal. Caution is necessary in mixing, or even in unpacking the dry colours, that the fine powder does not get into the nostrils, or be drawn in by the breath. A crape covering over the face might be of service; but care should be taken to turn always the same side towards the face, and to clean or wash it frequently. All artificers should avoid touching lead when hot, and this caution is especially necessary for printers and compositors who have often lost the use of their limbs by handling the types

when drying by the fire after being washed. Glazier's putty should never be made or moulded by the hand. An iron pestle and mortar would work the ingredients together, at least equally well, and without hazard.—If any person in any of the above employments, should feel pain in the bowels, with costiveness, they should immediately take twenty drops of laudanum, and when the pain is abated, two table spoonfuls of castor oil, or an ounce of the bitter purging salt, dissolved in warm camomile tea. If this does not succeed, a pint or two pints of warm soap-suds should be thrown up as a clyster.—As a preventative, two or three tea spoonfuls of salad oil, taken in a small cup of gruel, are likely to be of service, if taken daily, and steadily pursued.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

THE happiness to be derived from a country life, and rural occupations, has deservedly employed the pen, both of the poet and the philosopher, and has been acknowledged in all ages. It must, however, be confessed, that to some the town has likewise its attractions. To these people, who find in the bustle and confusion of business or amusement, a thousand sources of pleasure, the solitude of the country would appear intolerable. Yet when we draw a fair comparison between the two ways of life, we cannot but be astonished, that so many should prefer the tumults of the city, to the calm and genuine pleasures of a country life.

When we are stunned by the discordant tones of criers, the jingling of carts, and the deafening noise of drums and trumpets, the heart pants for the calm quiet of retirement. The man of sensibility and reflection, disgusted with such tumultuous scenes, longs to fly from them, and to bury himself in the deepest recesses of our dark and silent glen, to throw himself on the banks of a winding rivulet and listen to its gurgling sounds as murmurs slowly along. The rugged mountains rising to immense heights and in a thousand different shapes on every side, fill the mind with sublimity

and pleasing ideas and reflections. In such sequestered scenes, the purest pleasures are to be found, pleasures which kings and courtiers never experience, surrounded by crowds of sycophants, and in possession of all that power can bestow. Here the mind unbends itself, and awakened to the finer feelings which a view of the works of nature excites, forgets for a moment all those projects of ambition, and those desires that render mankind unhappy. In retirement alone can we experience those delicious sensations which form the purest sources of delight to a warm imagination.

In the busy scenes of the world; the softer feelings of nature become blunted, by being suppressed when interest or pleasure comes in competition. The mind, accustomed to deceit and falsehood, becomes distrustful, and is no longer capable of receiving the warm impression of any noble sentiment, which too much commerce with the world destroys. In the calm retirement of a country life, we behold man in a different light and with more pleasing sensations. Undisturbed by those jarring passions and that unsatisfied ambition, which never fail to bring misery and disappointment in their train, he employs his time and talents in pursuits gratifying to himself, and useful to his country. I wish, however, to observe, that it is only the man of true wisdom, and who knows how to place a right value on the gifts and the enjoyment of nature, that can feel the degree of pure happiness to be experienced in retirement from the bustle of life. The wretch who sacrifices every thing great and honourable to interest or passion, dead to the noblest feelings of humanity, can never receive delight from the sublime and innocent emotions excited by nature's works. Happy is he who can look with a philosophical contempt on the vain and childish pursuits which engross the bulk of mankind, and who living to nature alone, knows how to relish her simple gifts:

“Oh! knew he put his happiness, of men
The happiest he, who far from public
 rage,
With a choice few retired,
Drinks the pure pleasures of the rural
 life.”

BELFAST MAG. NO. XI.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MR. EDITOR,

I AM a subscriber to your useful and entertaining Magazine, and request a spare corner for the few following lines. On looking over No. 6th, I saw some extracts from the Hibernian Bible Society, also an account of a letter from a clergyman in a populous part of the north of Ireland, stating that in his neighbourhood the bible “could not be procured for any money”!!! I would ask this clergyman in what part of the north of Ireland he lives: I have been through all the counties in the province of Ulster, and was led to think the communications with Belfast, Newry, Coleraine, and Derry, extended through the northern districts. In all these and most other inland towns in Ulster, there are respectable booksellers, who import and sell the scriptures at a fair value. I have no doubt of the purity and laudable designs of the society, but I would beg leave to drop a hint or two on the subject.

I live in a populous part of the north of Ireland, also where a number of very poor families are; so soon as our good clergyman proposed the plan of raising money for purchasing the scriptures for the poor, I was anxious to contribute my mite and encourage others, but I confess after the books arrived, and our clergyman appointed a day for giving them out, I was much disappointed. Instead of seeing the poor supplied, few but the wealthy were receiving any; the reason was, that the very poor went to receive them gratis; and although reduced one eighth, one fourth, or as some say, one half, yet even this they were unable to pay. Is this the design of the society? Would it not answer a better end that in each congregation, or district, a few people be appointed to inquire who are unable to purchase, and let them have the scriptures gratis; and the second class be allowed to purchase at a reduced price: and if the clergymen are become retailers, let them take a fair price, so that the fair dealer may not be injured, but have an equal chance for his share, &c. as I assure you Mr. Editor, I have known

hawkers receive copies of the new-testament, from agents of the society, which I think was not the original design.

Yours, &c. M.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF JOHN DE COURCEY,
BARON OF KINSALE.

THE following romantic account of this ancient baron, in which is assigned the cause of the singular privilege still retained in that family, of appearing covered in the royal presence, may not be unacceptable.

John De Courcey, the descendant of a noble family who had come into England with William the first, signalised himself in Ireland, when very young, during the reign of Henry II. where it is said he fought five great battles, and conquered the whole province of Ulster, and part of Connaught.

In the year 1183 he was created earl of Ulster, and lord Connaught, and Henry the second granted him by patent, to continue to his heirs, the property of all the lands in Ireland that he could conquer with his sword, together with the donation of bishopricks and abbies, reserving only homage and fealty.

For some time after this he was governor of Ireland, either in conjunction with William-Fitz-Aldelme, or by himself. But in the year 1200, Hugh Lacy the younger, earl of Meath, was joined with him in the government.

Some time after, his colleague, by his artifices, contrived to injure him in the king's opinion, and at length to supplant him altogether. The crime of which he was accused was, speaking disrespectful words, highly reflecting on the king, concerning the murder of his nephew, Arthur, duke of Brittany. This accusation irritated king John so much, that he made Lacy sole governor, and ordered him to seize the earl of Ulster and send him prisoner to England.

Lacy gladly obeyed the command, and attempted several times to take him by force, but finding that would not do, he at length hired some of the Earl's servants to betray him. Their treachery took effect on Good Friday: for, on that day, as the earl, according to the devotion of those times, was

walking unarmed, and barefooted, round the church-yard of Downpatrick, for penance, Lacy and his party fell on him unawares. He having nothing to defend himself, seized a wooden cross that stood in the church yard. It is reported, says the chronicler who relates these anecdotes, that he slew thirteen of Lacy's men, but being at length overpowered, he was forced to submit.

The traitors met with the due reward of such a service; they asked their employer for a passport for England, with a certificate of the good service they had performed: he acquiesced in their desire, and gave them a letter, with directions that they should neither open it till it was demanded from them, nor ever return to Ireland. The contents were as follow:

"I, Hugh De Lacy, Lord Justice of Ireland, servant to my dread sovereign Lord King John, to all that shall read these letters, greeting: Know ye, that these men, whose names are under written, served some time Sir John De Courcey, late earl of Ulster, but now in durance in the tower of London, and for a sum of money betrayed their master into my hand: I deem them no better than Judas the traitor. How hardly soever I have conceived of Courcey, I hold them a thousand times more damnable traitors; wherefore, let no subject within the king's dominion give them any entertainment, but spit in their faces, and suffer them to rogue about, and wander like Jews."

He provided them with a vessel and provisions, but gave them no pilot or sailors; so that through want of skill they could not keep their course, but after having been tossed about for some time at the will of the wind and tide, they at length got into the harbour of Cork. Here they were no sooner landed than they were apprehended, and after undergoing a trial, convicted of having returned contrary to the Lord Justice's orders, and by his direction all hanged together.

De Courcey, after having been thus made prisoner, was sent to England, and lodged in the tower of London, where he was kept in confinement for more than a year: he owed his liberty

to the following circumstance : A dispute having arisen between king John and Philip Augustus, king of France, concerning the title to the dutchy of Normandy : it was proposed by the French king, to prevent the unnecessary spilling of blood, that the dispute should be decided by single combat. King Philip being present, and a French champion ready, king John, though unwilling to risque the title upon one man's fortune, determined to accept the challenge; yet he was for some time at a loss whom to name, until one of his friends reminded him of De Courcey; who was still a prisoner in the king's hands. When he was asked by the king if he would be content to fight in his quarrel; "Not for thee," said the earl, "whose person I esteem unworthy the adventure of my blood, by reason of the ungrateful returns thou hast made me for my faithful services and loyalty to the crown, in imprisoning me unheard, at the suit of my rival and enemy Hugh De Lacy; but for the crown and dignity of the realm, in which many a good man liveth against thy will, I shall be content to hazard my life." These words were not taken ill at the time, being considered as proceeding from an affected mind of him that was esteemed more plain than wise; whereupon it was agreed that he should be dieted, apparelled, and armed to his content, and that his own sword should be brought him out of Ireland; therefore being much made of, and cherished with large allowances after his hard keeping, the French challenger at first sight took him for a monster.

The day came, the place appointed, the lists provided, the scaffolds set up, the princes with their nobles on each side; and many thousand spectators being present, forth comes the French champion; he gives a turn or two, and rests him in his tent.

They then sent for De Courcey, who all this time was trussing himself in his tent with strong leather points; he answered the messengers, "if any of the company were to go to such a banquet, I think he would not make any great haste."

Forth he comes, at length, gives a turn, and goes into his tent; when

the trumpets sounded to battle, forth come the combatants, and survey each other: Courcey beheld the challenger with a wonderful stern countenance, and passed him by, while the Frenchman did not at all like his grim look, and the strong proportions and muscles of his body, as he stalked along. When the trumpets sounded the last charge, Courcey drew out his sword, at sight of which the Frenchman ran away, and conveyed himself to Spain; whereupon they sounded victory to the earl of Ulster. The spectators huzza'd, clapped their hands, and threw up their caps.

Philip, the French king, being desirous to see De Courcey, requested king John that he might be called, to shew before them some part of his great strength, by striking a blow upon a helmet. It was agreed a stake was set in the ground, covered with a shirt of mail, and an approved helmet set thereon. De Courcey drew his sword, and looking wonderfully stern upon the kings, with one blow he gave such a stroke to the helmet, that he cleft it asunder, together with the shirt of mail. The sword stuck so fast in the log, that no man there was able to pull it out again but the earl himself; which sword, it is said, is preserved in the tower of London to this day.

The kings asked him what he meant by looking on them with such a grim and froward countenance, before he gave the blow to the helmet? He answered, that if he had missed his blow upon the block, he would have killed the whole company, as well the kings as others.

After this noble performance, the king restored him to his former titles, and also gave him his estate, which was then valued at twenty-five thousand marks per annum, and likewise bid him ask for any thing else in his gift he had a mind to, and it should be granted. The earl replied, he had titles and estate enough, but desired that he and his successors, the heirs male of his family, after him, might have the privilege to stand covered in the royal presence of him and his successors, the kings of England, after the first obeisance. The king granted this; and the said privilege is preserved in the family to this day.

De Courcey was of colour white, mighty large bones and sinews, tall, and broad in proportion of body, so that his strength was thought to exceed all others; in boldness incomparable, and a warrior even from his youth.

The earl, after this, attempted fifteen times to cross the seas to Ireland, but was always put back by contrary winds; whereupon he altered his resolution, and went to France, where he died, about the year 1210.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE LISTENER, NO. I.

Semper ego auditor—

WALLS, they say, have ears—so they should—how many notable discoveries would otherwise be lost to the world—how much good would be unknown, how much wickedness undetected, were it not for these silent informers? How little would the ruffian and debauchee be restrained from their secret practices, how little compunction would they feel on committing them, were not the voice within seconded by the ear without. The science, or to speak more philosophically, the mystery of listening, has not been sufficiently attended to; on the contrary, instead of being praised and admired, it is the subject of universal obloquy. I might myself have been carried away by the same prejudices against it as affect the multitude, had I not considered that every great improvement has had to struggle against ignorance and error; and even in this enlightened age I would hardly venture to stem the torrent of popular opinion that is directed against it, did I not see that truth is always ultimately triumphant; that the martyr of to day will be the saint of to-morrow. Galileo was thrown into prison for venturing to assert the motion of the earth: and friar Bacon was strongly suspected of dealing with the devil. Not to multiply instances, the first inventor of a speaking automaton was persecuted as a sorcerer: hence I infer, that if a signal improvement in the art of speaking met with such an ungrateful reception, it is not to be wondered at, that the first refiner of the art of hearing should have equal

obstacles to obstruct his progress. But great is truth, and it will prevail. Although at present the listener is hated, shunned, and kicked out of company, the time, I trust, is not far distant, when undeserved reproach will be overpaid with well-earned admiration, and the author of the art will receive the reward of his present labours and risques. Then perhaps I will appear immortalized in brass, an everlasting monument of the progress of public opinion, standing on tip-toe, the right hand open, and drawn close to the cheek, to break the current of air that might otherwise disturb the sensibility of the auditory nerve; the left reverted to repress intruders; the neck stretched forward, the eye fixed, the mouth half open, the head inclined a little to one side; one ear turned downwards to receive the lowly creeping whisper, the other raised to catch the flying tale; and beneath, in letters of gold,

Ille ego qui primum—

Besides the advantages accruing to the public from the art of listening, those resulting to the possessor of such an invaluable secret are not few. It gives him an insight into human nature, exhibiting it in a view before unthought on. Men, as they are generally studied, are like objects seen through a fog, which never appear in their true form or colours. The listener penetrates the veil, he gets behind the scenes, and sees them undressed, unpainted, and unadorned. It must be confessed, that many of these advantages are owing to the secrecy with which this faculty is employed: a listener, when known, ceases to be a listener; yet such is the wise regulation of Providence to reduce mankind to a level, by balancing good qualities with defects, that what is gained on one side, is lost on the other. It appears so particularly in the present instance. Could a listener keep his own secrets, he would rise to an indisputed superiority over the rest of his fellow-creatures; hearing all, and saying nothing, he would be the privy-counsellor to all mankind, and regulate the world at his pleasure. To prevent this, and keep the balance even, it is remarkable, that whenever nature has braced the ear so tightly

that it is sensible to the least agitation of the surrounding air, capable of vibrating to the lowest whisper, and conveying it full and perfect to the brain, she has, on the other side, so completely relaxed the muscles of the tongue, that it ceases to be obedient to the will. The action of the drum of the ear produces a corresponding motion in the tongue, so that every sound that enters through the former aperture is immediately emitted through the latter. Sometimes she does not stop here, but as the bell often continues to tinkle when the hand that set it in motion has ceased to pull, so the tongue often says more than what has been communicated to it through the ear. In confirmation of this theory, Horace (who, by the bye, in joining the common-place cry against this noble science, has not adhered to his usual liberality of sentiment) has the following line

Percontatorem fugito, nam garrulus idem est.

Having said so much of the art, it is now time to state my reasons for appearing before the public. For the better understanding of these, I shall first say a few words of my self, my origin, and the means by which I became an adept. In speaking of myself, I shall not recur to my ancestors, nor lay any stress on what does not immediately concern myself; though, were I inclined to imitate the example of most biographers, might dwell with no small degree of pride and self-complacency on their merits; the family of Dulman, from which trace my descent, being well known to have been amongst the oldest and most respectable in the kingdom, not only claiming kindred with most of the peerage, both spiritual, and temporal, but having the honour, as I have been repeatedly assured, of not being very distantly allied to majesty itself. From this, however, I assume no consequence, and shall therefore tell no longer on it, but proceed to my main subject.

Most great men trace the origin of their future fame from their infancy, coming to think that as the infant is at the man in embryo, so the intelligence that produces such fruit when mature, may be perceptible in the bud. Several prognostications of my future position, shewed themselves even

before my birth. To pass over many, which I have reason to suspect were *ex post facto* omens, my mother, when in her pregnancy, had a most unaccountable longing for a dish of pigs' ears, and has told me more than once, that a short time before she lay in, she dreamt that she was delivered of a hearing-trumpet. When in my swaddling cloaths I could never bear to have my head covered, and to this singularity of having the organs of hearing constantly exposed, I attribute in a great degree the strength of nerve and length of muscular substance that has given them such extraordinary sensibility. The latter of these was so remarkable, that at school, I went by no other name than Luggs. When able to take care of myself, my sole amusement abroad was riding a donkey, and at home, lying with my ear close to one end of a beam of timber, listening to the sound produced by a nail with which one of my playfellows scratched the other. As I advanced in years, I was remarkable for nothing but an impenetrable stupidity and aversion to book-learning. My parents attributed this to a want of intellect, and I have often overheard them whispering to each other, that I was born to be a perfect dunce. Little did they know, that at the time when my countenance indicated the most confirmed stolidity, all my faculties were at work within. While I stood in a corner, apparently listless, gazing at the wall, or sucking my finger, my ear was open to every murmur that circulated, and when they were vainly endeavouring to fix my eyes on my horn-book, they little thought that I was then most sedulously storing my mind with ideas from another sense.

Accident has given a bent to the studies of the greatest men; it was so with me. My first inducement to attend to Latin and Greek, was reading the fable of Midas. The long ears, the barber, the ditch, the whispering of the reeds, delighted me. It was the same with the Roman history. I drudged through it without pleasure till I came to the sons of Brutus, who were flogged to death by their father. Yet it was not they that excited my interest. The father's resolution, or the sons' sufferings, would never have raised either my admiration or pity. Vindictus was

my hero. His slinking into the inner room, overhearing the plans of the conspirators, and obtaining liberty and honour by the discovery, decided me in his favour. But of all the remarkable men of antiquity, Dionysius of Sicily, was my favourite. His mode of detecting conspiracies was a masterpiece of ingenuity. Often have I determined to take a voyage into Sicily, where I understand that precious morsel of antiquity still exists, to examine his mode, and take a model of it for my own use. Nay, I long had thoughts of constructing one of the same form at home, and would have attempted it, had I not reflected on the difficulty of bringing those into it, from whom I wished to make discoveries. However, I have it in contemplation to make a portable ear on the same principles. I design to construct it in the form of a lady's parasol, which, by collecting the whispers of those beneath into a focus at the top, may be conveyed to the listener, when placed at a proper distance. What pleasure shall I not feel in overhearing the unreserved tattle of a couple of female gossips, who are unburdening themselves to one another as they go along the public walks, little suspecting that every word is noted down by me as I walk along gravely and silently on the other side of the street. I must request the reader to keep what I have now said a secret, as, if known, the ladies, from whom I expect to collect the greatest part of my information, may take the alarm, throw aside this fashionable appendage to their summer walks, and thus destroy my project in embryo. In the mean time I have not been idle in seizing every opportunity that presented itself, of investigating the private history of my neighbours, and have already laid up a stock of secret history that will one day surprise the world.

In the course of my studies, though I have no reason to find fault with my progress, I have not been without my sufferings and disappointments. At the very outset I was nearly discouraged from proceeding, by the following unlucky accident: I was extremely curious to overhear a conversation between a lady, into whose family I had wormed

myself in the character of a toad-eater, and her physician. I therefore placed myself in a small closet, where I lay safe from discovery. Many close questions were put, and I was on the point of making a notable discovery in medicine, when an unlucky sneeze that I could not repress broke all my measures. The lady instantly started up. The physician burst into the closet, and though I appeared fast asleep, and snored most naturally, it would not do. I was taken by the nose, led down stairs to the great hall, and handed over to the discipline of the servants, whom the cries of their mistresses on finding a stranger in her bed-chamber, had collected. By them I was conducted in procession to the stable yard, and being placed under the pump received an ablution that would have roused Morpheus himself from his slumbers in the middle of December. At another time I was feasting myself on a love scene, which I overheard through a partition. I listened in rapture, and watched in silent expectation to detect the parties; who, as far as I could collect from the words caught, could not have been on terms of closer intimacy; how great was my disappointment, when I found it to be an elderly maiden lady, who was diverting her solitude by reading aloud or rather acting to herself a chapter in one of Lewis's romances. At a country inn where I once stopped for the night, I overheard a stranger in the next apartment speaking to himself in the most energetic manner. My curiosity had been already excited by what I had heard of him from the house-maid, for it is my constant rule to collect all the previous information in my power as a clue to my solitary investigation. I could hear him call upon God; curse his own destiny; exclaim against the world, himself, and heaven. I began to be alarmed; at length the following expressions caught my ear—"It is enough, my liberty is in my own hand; a single effort releases me from a wretched misery—shall I hesitate to break my shackles—no—this moment—" I could no longer restrain myself, but burst into the room, and found that the proposed suicide was an itinerant preacher, who was rehearsing a sermon to

was to preach *extempore* on the following evening. These, and other similar pecks, did not damp me; the spirit of inquisitiveness was rather incited by them; they were useful lessons, which are not a little tended to make me complete master of the art.

And now for my reasons.—The first and most urgent is, to rid myself of a burden too weighty for me. This I ought to conceal; but it is impossible to one who is always hearing truths, not to be sometimes guilty of telling them. If the redundancies of my brain be of equal use to the public with the laborious scrapings of others, I see no reason why they should be dissipated. If the effect be good, they need not quarrel at the cause that produces it. Another reason is this; by such a copious and speedy discharge of the contents of my brain, a vacuity will be occasioned, which, if we may judge of the intellectual by the corporeal part of our frame, excites very painful sensations, and demands an extraordinary supply. A man is never so hungry as after sea-sickness. When therefore I lay my stores before the public, I intend to invite those affected with the *cocthes loquendi*, to make me the repository of their surplus of intelligence, so that filling up on one side but pours out at the other, a constant supply may be maintained. It will be an equitable account, a sort of banking business, now so much in fashion, where the bills coming in as the notes issue it, supply a constant paper currency, do prevent the danger of a stoppage. To speak philosophically, it may be considered as a Galvanic circuit, in which a hidden subtle fluid produced from vitriol and water, acid and indigity, entering in through the zinc at one side, and going out through the copper at the other, produces an incessant flow, which though invisible and imperceptible, when suffered to reform its round undisturbed, acts constantly on him who ventures to interrupt its progress. Galvanism, we are told, cannot raise the dead to life, nor restore a lost eye, but is a sovereign remedy for tooth-aches and rheumatisms*. The art of Listening is not

likely to be brought to such an *experimentum crucis*. One would be unwilling to stifle a reputation, as you would hang up a dog, to see if it could be whispered into re-existence, or to extinguish a brilliant spark of genius, in the hope of lighting it up again by this new-invented Gas. But in those mental diseases which are troublesome, though not fatal, those twitches of conscience hitherto deemed incurable, except by rooting out the part affected like a rotten tooth; those internal chronics that lie dormant in the sunshine of wealth and pleasure, and are brought on by the wintry blasts of adversity; in such cases it will no doubt be pleasing to all, to hear of a new, approved, and infallible specific, which can be used without pain, loss of time, or hindrance of business.

All this, I think, will be the happy effect of an art so long known, yet hitherto so little observed. In order to bring it into the notice it deserves, I propose soon to publish a hand-bill or advertisement, conformably with the practice of my brother experimental philosophers on the body corporate, stating "that whereas, Daniel Dulman, D. N. I. A. L. (Discoverer of the Noble and Inscrutable Art of Listening, has brought this science to such a state of perfection, as to render it applicable to the cure of all complaints incident to the human understanding, he is ready to give advice and relief to every applicant who will favour him with the state of their case, or visit him, at his apartments, No. 5, Botany Bay, Hercules-street, three doors from the corner, up two pair of stairs, backwards; the above situation having been chosen, after minute examination of all parts of the town, for its health, cleanliness, and retirement. The utmost honour and secrecy observed. N. B. The Doctor's name is engraved in large capitals on a pewter-plate on the hall door. Letters (post paid) with the patient's state of mind, age, circumstances, &c. will be punctually attended to." It is also my intention to publish monthly lectures on the science itself, accompanied with extraordinary cases, experiments, &c. for the gratification of the curious. As pecuniary profit is not my object, I shall transmit the

* Vide the Medical Reports of the Magazine.

through the Belfast Magazine, and I doubt not but they will contribute to augment, to a very high degree, the reputation which that publication has already so deservedly attained.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ALTHOUGH you have been so unreasonably worried for inserting an account of Theophilus Lindsey, as if it were criminal to suppose a man may conscientiously separate from the church in which he was educated, and as if the old exploded doctrine of the *crime of schism* were to be revived in this quarter, although generally exploded in the enlightened parts of the empire, I hope you are not deterred from publishing such interesting facts respecting other dissenters, as may have a tendency to convey useful instruction. I trust your pages will always be open to whatever will have a tendency to liberalize the public mind.

At a late public dinner of the subscribers to the Unitarian fund in London, William Frend, M.A. the well known mathematician and astronomer, and author of that amusing and instructive periodical work, "Evening Amusements, or the Beauty of the Heavens Displayed," in which several striking appearances to be observed in the evenings of the succeeding year, are described; a learned man himself, took that opportunity of making some observations on the great and obvious difference between ignorance and want of learning. "A man might not be a scholar and yet a well informed man; as he might not be a well informed man, though a scholar. To teach religion requires only a knowledge of it, which a man may have without classical learning. To be able to tell the name of a candlestick in ten different languages does not carry a man a whit towards the right understanding of the New Testament." He defined the true province of learning, and described its usefulness within its legitimate boundaries. Fanaticism is the great enemy, from which common sense is a more effectual preservative than learning. If you are not tired with sound sense

though from the lips of a non-conformist, I recommend you to insert the following letter written by the late Robert Robinson of Cambridge, a noted baptist preacher, well known and highly respected by many at that University—and which has lately appeared in an edition of his works. He was a man of undoubted piety, and though he appears to treat the subject with a certain air of jocularity, at which some may be offended, yet I think there is much sound sense in the letter. He shows himself a man usefully employed. I do not expect the full and useful occupation of his time throughout the day made his sermon less instructive in the evening. The Baptists do not consider that secular employment unfits for the ministerial office, and consequently many of their preachers are shopkeepers and persons in mechanical employments. I think I see a smile on the countenance of many of your readers; but before they are too hasty in their censures, it may be well for them to know that Robert Robinson was a well informed man, wrote much in defence of the christian religion, was free from fanaticism, no canter, and was highly respected by many members of the University, among whom he lived, as well as by others who differed widely in opinion from him. It is happy for mankind to learn to bear with diversity of opinion, and to open their hearts to look favourably on the merits of those, whose sentiments and theirs may be widely different.

TO HENRY KEENE, ESQ. WALWORTH:
Chesterlon, May 26, 1754

OLD FRIEND,

You love I should write folios: that depends upon circumstances, and if the thunder-storm lasts, it will be so: but what a sad thing it is to be forced to write, when one has nothing to say? Well, you shall have an apology for not writing,—that is a diary of one day.

Rose at three o'clock—crawled in to the library—and met one who said "Yet a little while is the light with you: walk while ye have the light—the night cometh, when no man can work—my father worketh hitherto

and I work."—Rang the great bell, and roused the girls to milking—went up to the farm, roused the horse-keeper—fed the horses while he was getting up—called the boy to suckle the calves, and clean out the cow-house—lighted the pipe, walked round the gardens to see what was wanting there—went up the paddock to see if the weanling calves were well—went down to the ferry, to see whether the boy had scooped and cleaned the boats—returned to the farm—examined the shoulders, heels, traces, chaff, and corn of eight horses going to plough—mended the acre staff—cut some thongs, whip-corded the boys' plough whips—pumped the troughs full—saw the hogs fed—examined the swill-tubs, and then the cellar—ordered a quarter of malt, for the hogs want grains, and the men want beer—filled the pipe again, returned to the river, and bought a lighter of turf for dairy-fires, and another of sedge for ovens—hunted up the wheel-barrows, and set them a trundling—returned to the farm, called the men to breakfast, and cut the boys' bread, and cheese, and saw the wooden bottles filled—sent one plough to the three-roods, another to the three-half-acres, and so on—shut the gates, and the clock struck five—breakfasted—set two men to ditch the five roods—two more to chop mals, and spread about the land—two more to throw up muck in the yard—and three men and six women to weed wheat—set on the carpenter to repair cow-cribs, and set them up till winter—the wheeler to mend up the old carts, cart-ladders, rakes, &c. preparatory to hay-time and harvest—walked to the six-acres, found hogs in the grass—went back, and sent a man to hedge and thorn—sold the butcher a fat calf, and the suckler a lean one—the clock strikes nine—walked into barley-field—barleys fine, picked off a few tiles and stones, and cut a few thistles—the peas fine, but foul; the charlock must be topped, —the tares doubtful; the fly seems to have taken them—prayed for rain, but could not see a cloud—came round to the wheat-field—wheats rather thin, but the finest colour in the world—sent four women on to the short-

BELFAST MAG. NO. XI.

est wheats—ordered one man to weed the ridge of the long wheats—and two women to keep rank and file with him in the furrows—thistles many—blue bottles no end—traversed all the wheat-field—came to the fallow-field—the ditches have run crooked—set them straight—the flag-sads cut too much—rush-sads too little—strength wasted—show the men how to three-corner them—laid out more work for the ditchers—went to the ploughs—set the foot a little higher, cut a wedge, set the coulter deeper, must go and get a new mould-board against to-morrow—went to the other plough—picked up some wool, and tied over the traces—mended a horse-tree, tied a thong to the plough-hammer—went to see which lands wanted ploughing first—sat down under a bush—wondered how any man could be so silly as to call me *reverend*—read two verses, and thought of his loving kindness in the midst of his temple—gave out, "Come all harmonious tongues," and set mount Ephraim tune—rose up—whistled—the dogs wagged their tails, and on we went—got home—dinner ready—filled the pipe—drank some milk—and fell asleep—woke by the carpenter for some slats, which the sawyer must cut—the Reverend Messrs. A. in a coat, B. in a gown of black, and C. in one of purple, came to drink tea, and to settle, whether Gomer was the father of the Celts and Gauls and Britons, or only the uncle—proof-sheet from Mr. Archdeacon—corrected it—washed—dressed—went to meeting, and preached from, *the end of all things is at hand, be ye sober and watch unto prayer.*—Really and truly we look for you and Mrs. Keene and Mr. Dore at harvest; and if you do not come, I know what you all are—Let Mr. Winch go where he can better himself. Is not this a folio? And like many other folios?

R. ROBINSON

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE following Proposal has been lately circulated through this town. The subject is important, and we heartily wish success to a plan calculated to relieve the really distressed, and to

force the idle and dissipated to work, if they expect relief. Such benevolent schemes frequently fail from want of exertion, and the difficulty of finding a sufficient number of persons who will permanently interest themselves to carry it into execution. We give a place to the Plan in our pages, to extend its circulation, and in hopes of stimulating the inhabitants of other towns to consider of the expediency of adopting a similar scheme of affording relief, on enlightened principles.

Proposal concerning a Society for the Abolition of Mendicity, and for the Relief and Encouragement of the Industrious Poor of the Town of Belfast, Published by order of the Committee appointed for removing Mendicants from the streets.

It is now at length universally admitted, after much consideration, and repeated experiments, that the most effectual mode of meliorating the condition of the Poor, is by adopting such expedients, as may awaken and encourage their industry, because these not only tend to lessen their immediate wants, but to introduce moral habits, which, if persevered in, may at length render them independent.

Pauperism, than which no state (if we except that of slavery) is more unhappy, nor more likely to destroy the amiable and respectable qualities of the human mind, may be aptly called a disease in the frame of society; and like other diseases, may be either treated with palliatives, which, while they give a temporary relief, do remotely aggravate the distemper, or else by such remedies as penetrate to the source of the disorder, and gradually restore the frame to a state of strength and sanity.

That the latter prescription is the most desirable, need not be much insisted on, and that the encouragement of industry is a remedy of this nature, must appear obvious upon the least reflection.

To bring this principle then into operation, it is proposed to establish a Society, whose first object will be to furnish the poor with employment, to lay in proper materials and implements, to discover new sources of industry

where it may be necessary, to find a market for the materials when wrought up, and to pay them the full value of the work which they are able to execute, without any reduction, upon returning it to the Repository to be established for that purpose.

As it will always happen, however, that many, on account of age, infirmity, and other causes, will be unable to earn as much as might be adequate to their subsistence, their next object will be to make such addition to the earnings of the poor, out of a charitable fund to be raised for that purpose, as will be sufficient to give them a moderate support, provided always that they have earned what might reasonably be expected; that they have been prevented solely by the visitation of Providence, and not by any want of disposition to be industrious. Thus, supposing six-pence to be the sum necessary for a day's support, if a woman or child can earn at spinning, carding, &c. one or two pence, the remaining five or four pence is to be added from the fund, provided it has been ascertained by the Society that they have exerted themselves to the utmost.

If these regulations be adopted as fundamental, to adjust the minor arrangements necessary, for their support and execution, will be a matter of no great difficulty; a meeting of the town should be called, a committee appointed; a house should be taken as a repository; and resolutions entered into concerning the subscription, and other general laws of the institution. It will be only necessary then to make a few comments on the nature of the plan at large.

In the first place, this is a most prudent and effectual scheme for the relief of the poor. It is a most prudent one, for although it be true that our obligation to do good and distribute are of the highest nature, being the dictates of religion, as well as of sound policy, yet the task is not quite so easy as may be imagined; for it is certain that the community has a right to the labour of those to whose support it contributes, and that none who are, in the least degree capable should enjoy its privilege if they do not (when in their power) contribute something to the treasury of the public hive; and

even Christianity does not fail to instruct us, that he who does not work should neither eat, consequently, that if in obeying the precepts of charity, we at the same time act in such a manner as to occasion any serious violation of this order of Providence, our labours will be of inferior account.

To avoid this error, then, and at the same time, to afford sufficient relief to the wants of our fellow creatures, is the object of this Institution; it reconciles our duty to the poor, and our duty to society, which otherwise might seem at variance. It imitates the economy of Providence, whose invariable rule it is to help those, who are willing to help themselves, and by this means it both lightens the burthen, and brings new advantages to society, giving such a tone to the industry of the lower classes, as will effectually diminish the propensity to vice, and encourage them in habits of virtue.

This scheme is a most effectual one, for it extends relief to a greater number of cases than any other.

The poor may be divided into two classes, those who cannot contribute at all to their own support, and those who can. In the former may be reckoned the sick poor, and the young, aged and infirm, who are as it were insulated beings, and can obtain no assistance from friend or relative: these in comparison of the rest are very few in number, for they are very few who may not be made to do something towards their own support, and yet for their relief the town is already provided with an hospital and poor-house. For the latter there is none, or very scanty provision: and yet how many classes does it comprize? the mendicant, the room-keeper, the stranger, the unemployed manufacturer, the unhired labourer, the decayed servant; in fact, all these, whose labours are lost to society, and yet who must be supported or

sual excuse, want of employment and inability to earn a sufficiency; and the feelings of the charitable will not be distracted as they often are at present, between the fear of withholding relief from the real object, and that of lavishing it on the undeserving.

The stranger also, if he happen to be in want upon his arrival in the town, can at once obtain subsistence by the exercise of his calling, without any other recommendation than his necessity, until he may be able to pursue his journey.

The room-keepers who can obtain none, or very precarious employment, being entirely unfit for any laborious one, who would rather die almost than submit to the degradation of beggary, will never feel ashamed to resort to a place where their subsistence is, or appears to be, the reward of their own industry.

The manufacturer, workmen and labourers, who from the fluctuation of trade, or the deadness of the season, are thrown out of employment and reduced to temporary distress, can here find a means of industry and support, until they can derive it again from the usual sources. But to detail all the advantages of such a scheme would be a work of much time and labour. They will easily develop themselves when it is put into execution.

But what is of unusual importance, if it be adopted, mendicity must gradually be abolished; for we can then withhold our money from the vagrant beggar without reluctance, when we know that if he will assist himself, so excellent an institution is open to receive him, and the magistrates also may, without much danger of oppression, exercise the powers by law vested in them, of removing them to a place of labour or punishment.

That we have reasonable grounds for entertaining so high an opinion of the success of this scheme, appears from the precedents which, upon inquiry, have presented themselves. In the reports of the society for bettering the condition of the poor, there is an account of an institution, of a nature nearly similar, established at Edinburgh, vol. 3. No. 88, Page 221,

these descriptions of persons this institution proposes to take under its protection, and to furnish them with a small but adequate means of livelihood.

The mendicant can here obtain support; he will be deprived of his u-

and the effects of it are thus described, "The ordinary class of beggars fled in general upon the alarm, and retired to quieter situations in London and other municipalities, where similar measures of prudential charity have not been adopted; and as to those who apply for protection to the institution, they express very strongly and very generally their gratitude for the advantages they derive from the charity, and look forward to its continuance with earnest and eager expectation."

In the parish of Shipter Moyne, also, in the County of Gloucester, an institution founded upon the same principles is attended with like success. Vol. 3. - No. 86. P. 200. We are there assured, "That the work-house for the women and children (who it appears are there employed during the day) by a most extraordinary and incredible metamorphosis is converted into a real house of industry."

If it appears to any person a matter of much difficulty to find employment for the poor, the observation must be confessed to be a true one; but let him consider that if it be difficult to those who have capital in their hands, who possess information, and know the proper use of money in commercial dealings, how much more so must it be to the poor who have no capital whatever, who are in a great measure ignorant of the modes of finding materials, and whose profits are generally wasted among the middle dealers. It is in fact, a matter of necessity, that the wealthy and better informed should exert themselves in favour of their weaker and more destitute brethren; for if they do not, one of two things must happen, either that the poor of this class must perish, or else be supported entirely by alms. As to the former it should not once be mentioned, and in the latter case they must not only be reduced to a more degraded state (as mendicancy certainly is) than any we know of, but must become a much severer burthen than if such an institution were open to receive them.

The only objection then which can be made (if indeed it be an objection) is the difficulty of meeting with active supporters, but this we

are happy to say is in a great measure removed, as many gentlemen have laudably pledged themselves to give personal aid in favour of the undertaking, and we are not without hopes that the liberality of the plan, its utility, and importance to society will procure it many and lasting friends.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE HERRING.

Concluded from p. 356, No. X.

TO complete this article I shall conclude by a few words on the herring trade. It is of great antiquity. Madox records that in 1195 the little town of Dunwick was obliged to pay 80,000 herrings to the crown. In the 13th century the Zealanders carried on this trade to a great extent and to this effect in the year 1282, they obtained from the king of England, a patent for themselves and the Dutch, granting them the right of fishing on the coasts of Yarmouth. It may also be seen from a diploma of Eric III. king of Denmark, that in the 13th century herrings were an article of commerce in the Baltic. This diploma granted to the people of Hamburg a piece of land in the island of Schonen, for their residence during the fishery, and for vending their cargoes at the fairs. In this age also may be discovered traces of the practice of saving herrings, which was undoubtedly that of smoking. In the 14th century a fair for the sale of herrings was established at Yarmouth. In 1357 Edward III. prohibited fishermen from selling their fish any where but in that city. The Dutch, who till then had purchased their herrings on the coast from the Scotch fishermen, and afterwards exported them to other countries, were obliged to send vessels to fish there; for as the fishermen were obliged to bring their cargoes to market previous to their being salted, the herrings by the delay thus occasioned, were rendered soft and unfit for exportation. According to Maizieres the herring trade was also very considerable at this time on the coast of Norway. He says that in that country upwards of three thousand men were collected during the months of September and October, whose occupation was the

erring fishery. The fishery and trade in herrings still forms one of the principal branches of national industry, by which several tons of gold is annually brought into the kingdom. Though the fir-wood which the Norwegians use for making their casks gives a taste to the fish which is not generally relished, yet the Poles esteem it highly. Some years since the Danish government ordered the casks to be made of oak; but it was soon observed that the demand lessened. The Poles remarked the want of usual flavour, and it was found necessary to revert to the fir. With the Dutch this branch of commerce is still more considerable; whence it is that M. Carleson calls the erring fishery their golden mine, because in reality this nation draws more gold and silver from it than the others from their mines. At first, as has been already observed, this nation purchased their herrings from the Scotch; but their industry and sage regulations soon rendered their herrings preferable, not only to the Scotch, but even to the Flemish, which had been celebrated for their excellence. Yet the herring trade in this nation is not now near so extensive as it hitherto has been. In 1416 the first large net was made at loom, since which time the Dutch have employed larger vessels. In 1552 the city of Enkhuysen alone sent 140 vessels to the herring fishery; and in 1601, five hundred vessels sailed from the several ports of the republic for the same purpose; and if Sir Walter Raleigh is not mistaken, at times 3,000 vessels and 450,000 men were occupied in it. This, however, is undoubtedly exaggerated, or else the trade has declined very considerably since it has excited the jealousy of other nations. In 1736, the number of vessels did not amount to 250. This number has since diminished; for in 1747 the Dutch sent out but 100 vessels, and in 1773 but 169. It would have fallen still further had not the States General, in 1775, offered a bounty of 500 florins to every vessel which went to the herring fishery. Notwithstanding this decline it still continues to be a considerable branch of industry; for it is said that 20,000 men are still supported by it,

The French also annually send out about an hundred vessels from Calais, Dieppe, and the other neighbouring ports. These are not so large as the Dutch, not containing more than from twenty to twenty-five tons. They fish either on the coasts of England, or in the Channel. They also fish during Autumn on the coasts of Normandy and Picardy; but as the sailors are not in the habit of taking provisions and salt along with them, they are obliged to return as soon as they have a cargo, and it frequently happens that before they can return the fogs which favour the fishery pass away, and the best opportunity is lost. The Swedes, who hitherto purchased their herrings from other nations, have within these forty years become more attentive to the trade of this fish. In 1745 a company was established for this purpose, supported by government, by means of which their herrings, and particularly those of Gothenburg, have risen to great estimation.

In 1764, fifty cargoes of herring, which were thought equal to the Dutch, arrived from this port to Hamburg. From the same place were exported in the year 1771, 43,959 tons of herring; in 1772, 73,130; in 1781 and 1782, 200,000; and from twenty to twenty-two thousand tons of oil. Many loads of herrings, smoked in straw, are brought into the north of Germany, from Swedish Pomerania. The Danes not only bring into Germany the herrings caught in Spring and Autumn on the northern coast of Jutland, and the isles of Ferroe, but they also send vessels to the coast of Scotland.

In 1767 a company for the herring fishery was established at Altona. Large quantities of smoked herrings are also sent from Holstein to Hamburg and the neighbouring cities. Those called Kieler-Bucklinge are particularly prized. In 1770 a company was formed in Prussia for this fishery, and in 1776 six vessels were sent from Embden to the coast of Scotland, which returned with an hundred and thirty lasts of herrings. Since that time the number has been annually augmented; so the number now is from thirty-eight to forty-two vessels.

Herring oil is in Sweden a very im-

portant branch of commerce. At first the gills and intestines were the only parts used in this manufacture; and as this oil was in great demand, the merchant built manufactories of oil at their own expence, in most of the places where the fishery was carried on. These generally consist of eight cauldrons; four of these cauldrons were built in separate furnaces, so that the furnace being open before, afforded a separate aperture for each cauldron, and the four furnaces communicated within to a large one in the centre. To save copper they have invented a method of enlarging the cauldron with rods of pine wood, strengthened with thick bands of iron. The cauldrons are so built up that the fire touches but half the side, and the wall rises to within an ell of the upper surface of the rings, where a scaffold is placed, on which the persons stand who are employed to stir the contents of the cauldron with ladles of copper. Nine or ten tons of herrings may be boiled in one cauldron, and for this purpose from seven to nine tons of water are required; the water is conveyed by means of pumps. The herrings while boiling, are continually stirred until they are completely melted; then a little cold water is poured in, which makes the oil float, and it is afterwards taken off with brazen skimmers and put into leathern bags. When the oil has remained some hours there, and is separated from the dregs and the water, it is passed through a strainer into a large cask placed upright, which has a vent-hole about the third part of an ell from the bottom. When the oil has lain there some time, and the remaining dregs have fallen to the bottom, it is again filtered, and put into casks containing exactly sixty Swedish *cannes*.* It is then ready for exportation. It is absolutely necessary that the oil be completely freed from dregs and water, for otherwise these particles cause a bad smell in summer. The herrings are generally allowed to boil about five or six hours, and two or three hours more are requisite for it to settle before the oil can be taken off. In proportion to

the fulness and freshness of the fish is the good quality and weight of the oil; when made of old herrings it soon corrupts. The more the oil is boiled the browner it becomes, and when boiled in cauldrons made entirely of copper, it is browner than in those enlarged with wood. Coal and pine wood are used for the fire.

A manufactory of four cauldrons requires from twenty-eight to thirty-two workmen. It is at the beginning of the fishery when the herrings are plenty and the price low, that the making of oil is carried on; when the herrings are dear, nothing can be gained by it. This oil is used for lamps, but not for leather, on account of its fluidity.

The mass which remains is excellent for land, for ground manured with it produces much more grass and corn than by any other kind. The farmer who resides near the coast uses it; but so great a quantity, consisting at least of some hundred thousand tons annually cannot be entirely used in this manner; a great part of it is thrown into the sea.

At the commencement of the fishery, when the herring is large, a ton of them produces from five to six *cannes* and a half of oil; at the end of the fishery, when it is very poor, that is about the month of December, it produces no more than a *canne* and a half. A ton of oil contains sixty *cannes*, in the making of which from twenty to twenty-three tons of herrings are used.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IT may not be uninteresting to the readers of this magazine to see the plans attempted in the sister country to remedy the evils of their present system of poor laws—The annexed plan may serve to give a trait of the state of manners in that country, and also impress the truth of the important political and moral axioms, that an independence gained by the industry and frugality of the poor themselves contributes in an essential degree to their comforts and happiness, while a dependence on the contributions of others, by producing idleness necessarily leads to profligacy and immorality.

* This is a measure of liquids containing somewhat more than four gallons.

TRANQUILLITY, AN INSTITUTION COMMENCED IN THE METROPOLIS AS AN ECONOMIC BANK, TO AFFORD PERSONS OF SMALL INCOMES, AN OPPORTUNITY OF PROVIDING FOR THEIR FUTURE WANTS, BY PAYMENTS SUITED TO THEIR CONVENIENCE.

PERSONS of all ages, trades and descriptions are invited to become members of this Institution, which gives to the most trifling subscriptions, advantages equal in proportion to those gained by the opulent upon large sums.

The members may accommodate the amount and time of every payment entirely to their own inclinations. Sums as small even as sixpence will be received, and payments may be made as often as once a week. There are no fines for omissions, should the subscriptions not be regularly continued; but all the sums subscribed, whether little or much, will be carefully preserved and increased at compound interest for the use of the Subscriber, and will be paid to him at the period of age, in a proportionate annuity for the remainder of his life.

BY THE PLAN OF THIS INSTITUTION, married men are enabled to make provision for their widows, whilst the full benefits of their subscriptions are secured to themselves in case they should survive their wives:

Single women are enabled to make provision for themselves, of which in case of marriage their husbands will be allowed to partake:

Children and youth may deposit their small savings, to accumulate for their benefit on entering into life.

As this institution has been commenced without any view to private emolument, the full advantages, whatever they may be, which result from its funds must be divided amongst the members, or their widows and children; it is therefore needless to hold out any of those delusive promises, which none but the avaricious can desire, and none but the deluded can expect. The members of this institution will however enjoy the superior satisfaction of knowing, that they will not be exposed to any of those forfeitures which frequently take the discontinued subscription of a poor man, to swell the annuities of those who have less need of it than himself.

Five highly respectable gentlemen, wholly unconnected with the con-

trivance of the plan, have consented to become the trustees of the funds for the use of the members; and all monies received at the office, are daily paid into the hands of the bankers to the institution, Messrs. Hodson and Stirling, in the Strand.

The office of the institution is at No. 2, Albion-street, Blackfriars Bridge, where the subscriptions of the members are received, and where all persons desirous of becoming members of the institution, or acquiring further particulars are requested to apply.

The rules and regulations of the institution may be had at the office.
Office of Tranquillity, 6th Jan. 1807.

SOCIETY FOR THE GRADUAL ABOLITION OF THE POOR'S RATE.—AT A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23d DAY OF APRIL, 1806, AT THE HORN TAVERN, DOCTORS COMMONS.

RESOLVED,

I. That the condition of a great part of the lower order of the people is extremely wretched.

II. That the many laudable efforts exerted by the liberal and benevolent to ameliorate that condition, have proved in a great degree inadequate.

III. That nevertheless such amelioration is as necessary as ever, and as much to be desired.

IV. That as it is possible that the principles upon which all former efforts have proceeded may have been erroneous, it may be proper to be guided by principles altogether new.

V. That therefore, instead of teaching the poor to rely entirely upon charity, they should be taught the value of depending upon themselves.

VI. That the most effectual way of inculcating this lesson, is by confining the liberality of the affluent to those only who do their best to provide for their own independence.

VII. That every one who in the time of youth and vigour treasures up all he can spare to provide for the season of age and infirmity, has performed the utmost duty that society in that respect can require of him; and if after those endeavours he has been incapable of providing what is sufficient to furnish him with necessities and comforts, society is unjust if it does not make him up the deficiency, not as a matter of charity but of right.

VIII. That an institution which

shall enable the young and healthy to deposit the fruits of their economy as a provision for age, at the same time that it receives the aid of the benevolent, and administers comfort without conferring disgrace, is entitled to support.

IX. That the institution commenced under the name of "TRANQUILLITY" being intended to promote these among other important objects, a subscription shall be opened to assist its establishment.

X. That the sums so raised be paid to Messrs. Hodson and Stirling, Strand, bankers to that institution, and be at the disposal of its committee of Superintendence or Directors.

XI. That a subscription of One Guinea admission, and one guinea per annum, shall constitute a member of "The Society for the gradual Abolition of the Poor's Rate."

XII. That every respectable person be invited to become a member thereof, and that each member be particularly requested to introduce as many friends as he can.

XIII. That the Secretary of Tranquillity be the Secretary of this Society, and report the progress of that institution to this society every quarter.

XIV. That any and all Expense attendant upon this society, shall be paid at the end of every Three Month out of the contributions, and the balance thereof shall then be paid over to the committee of superintendence or directors of Tranquillity.

XV. That as soon as the directors of that institution shall find it convenient, this society will co-operate with them in their application to Parliament to effect the gradual abolition of the poor's rate, and to encourage individuals in the various classes of the community to make provision for themselves, by exempting from Parish assessments, on account of the poor, all those persons who are provided for by that establishment.

XVI. That this society will particularly attend to all communication of facts calculated to promote its object.

XVII. That this society shall meet every Wednesday at Twelve o'clock at Noon, at the office of Tranquillity, Albion-street, Black Friars Bridge.

By Order, W. Howe, Sec.

* * * Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. Hodson and Stirling, bankers, Strand; and by the Secretary at the Office of Tranquillity.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JOSEPH BLACK, M.D.F.R.S. OF LONDON AND EDINBURGH. BY M.B.L.S.

AS biographical sketches of distinguished persons occupy a capital line in your publications, I take the liberty of recommending to you a sketch of the life of Dr. Black, the late celebrated professor of chemistry and medicine, in the university of Edinburgh; not that I suppose lovers of science have neglected to hand down his name and merit to posterity, but that a more perfect history of his family and labours might be collected from the different recorded histories of him, than is contained in any one of them, by a person who was personally acquainted with him, and many branches of his family.

John Black, the doctor's grand-son,

was an eminent merchant in Belfast, and was married to Miss Jane Eccles of Malone, two miles from Belfast; William the III, was his father's guest, when on his march from Carrickfergus to Drogheda. Her brother Sir John Eccles of Dublin, was so much respected by the inhabitants of that city, that they honoured him with the name of one of their principal streets. John Black and his wife Jane Eccles, were patterns of piety and virtue; and they not only instructed their children in the principles of religion and morality, while they remained with them; but continue their wise instructions and exhortations by letters, when they were removed from them to far distant countries.*

* Extract of a letter to John Black, jun. dated Belfast, Sep. 8th, 1698.

"Soa John, shun all occasions of evil, hate lying, swearing, and sabbath breaking. Begin the day with prayer, for a blessing on your lawful endeavours; end it with thankfulness for mercies; observe your master's lawful commands, from which withdraw not without leave. Your christian and dutiful carriage, will add much to our comfort, who wish much for your happiness. God direct you and grant you his blessing, is the prayer of your affectionate father,

JOHN BLACK."

John Black, and Jane his wife lived and died in Belfast, where their tomb still remains, on which is this inscription.*

The doctor's father, John Black, jun. removed from Dublin to Bourdeaux in the year 1699, where he was merchant and factor; and there became acquainted with Mr. Robert Gordon, who was likewise merchant and factor, and of the same religious principles. He was a branch of the ancient family of Gordon of Hallhead in Aberdeenshire. Mr. Black married Mr. Gordon's daughter Margaret, in 1716. They by this marriage had 8 sons and 5 daughters, all born in Bourdeaux. As there was no English school convenient at the time, the education of their children devolved upon their father and mother. They all grew up to be men and women, and were settled in different parts.

The situation of the family in 1764 appears in a note in Mr. Black's hand. John Black, as is recorded in the public register in Belfast, was born and christened there in 1681, was a factor at Bourdeaux during 57 years, at present, 1764 in Dublin. His numerous family of children, still alive, were dispersed thus: John his eldest son, his wife and children, are at Bourdeaux; Robert in the Isle of Man; Isabel with her fourteen children at Aberdeen; Jane in Dublin; George at Belfast; Joseph at Glasgow; Esther at Dublin; Alexander in London; Samuel at Belfast; Catherine at Newtownards; James at London, and Thomas in Belfast.

George, a merchant, lived and died in Belfast, and left a family.—

* John Black, merchant in Belfast, departed this life the 25th March, 1725-6 aged 88 years. Jane Black, alias Eccles, his wife, departed this life 15th October, 1701, aged 48.

Samuel, a linen draper, died likewise in Belfast, unmarried.—Alexander and James are still living in London, and Catherine (Mrs. Turnly) in Belfast.

When John, the Drs. father, expressed his resolution of leaving France, and returning to his native country, his acquaintances expressed the most sensible regret, especially his intimate friend, the great president Montesquieu, who on hearing his intentions of leaving Bourdeaux, wrote to him in the most affectionate manner; among many expressions of sorrow his letter contains the following; "I cannot be reconciled to the thoughts of your leaving Bourdeaux. I lose the most agreeable pleasure I had, that of seeing you often, and forgetting myself with you."

The antient judges, magistrates and most eminent merchants in Bourdeaux without the knowledge of Mr. Black wrote the following attestation. We the under-subscribers, inhabitants of Bourdeaux, certify and attest that Mr. John Black, merchant, dwelling at the Charterhouse, is settled in Bourdeaux since the year 1699 and that he married a wife here, and carried on his trading business, always after a legal and fair manner, and ever has behaved himself so as to acquire the confidence, the esteem and consideration of all those acquainted with him, to the truth whereof we have signed the present certificate in Bourdeaux this 27th February 1755, signed, P. Nairac, Figer de Cater, Dubergies Laffore, &c. &c.

This with his contract of marriage, contracts for houses, cellars, vineyards, and lands, and the church of St. Andrews, and St. Seuerin's christening certificates of his 12 children, were sent for and delivered to Monsieur le Marquis de Tourny, your Intendant of the Province to make his report thereof to the king's minister: these were all detained by him about three months, till by the intercession of first-rank siéens at court they were presented. His Majesty then ordered that he should not be of the number of British subjects to be expelled, but remain as long as he pleased with his family unmolested in Bourdeaux; all his other papers were then restored, but the attestation was kept at Court.

Willing to end his earthly race in

his native country, he returned to Ireland next year and purchased an estate in the county of Armagh, where he resided some years. He and his wife Margaret Gordon died in Belfast, and were buried in his father's tomb.

The character of John Black, the younger, is thus given by a gentleman who had the best opportunity of knowing it. He was cheerful and contented, benevolent and liberal-minded; he was industrious and prudent in business, of the strictest probity and honour, very temperate and regular in his manner of life.

His son Joseph, the subject of this memoir, was born at Bourdeaux in the year 1728. All the family were educated by their father and mother, there being no English school at Bourdeaux at that time. In the year 1740 Joseph was sent home to Belfast, and put under the care of Mr. Sprot, a relation of the antient family of Maxwell, of Comber, in the county of Down, who was eminently perfect in the knowledge of the learned languages. He finished the classical education of many learned men, such as Gamble, Ferguson, M'Tear and Haliday, respectable physicians in Belfast.

When Joseph finished his classical education he was sent to the College of Glasgow, at that time famous for eminent professors of mathematics and all the different branches of philosophy. When he had gone through the graduate's course, he chose the practice of medicine, as being most consonant with his philosophic genius and the improvement he had made in physical knowledge.

Dr. Cullen was at that time professor of medicine and lecturer upon chymistry in Glasgow; this penetrating genius soon discovered the attention, the diligence and the acuteness of Black, and his love of chymical knowledge, and gave him all possible assistance in his favourite pursuits; allowed him the free use of his laboratory: and adopted him as his assistant in making his experiments, which he performed then and during his life with admirable accuracy, success and elegance.

When Joseph had acquired satisfactory knowledge of the doctrines which Dr. Cullen taught in his lectures upon chymistry, the theory and

practice of physic, he removed to the house of his cousin german, Mr. James Russel, then professor of natural philosophy in the university of Edinburgh. This situation perfectly suited the genius and views of this persevering student; he there reaped the advantage of the extensive knowledge, the singular correctness in experiment, and the precision of thought of this acute and experienced philosopher.

About this time Madam Stephens's Remedies for the human calculus had gained great reputation. Although they were then known, it was supposed that some kinds of calcareous earths made better lime and lime-water than other kinds. Joseph then entered the list of experimental chymists. In his researches he found that magnesia alba was an absorbent earth, possessed qualities different from marble, limestone, chalk, and shells, and that it had when combined with acids very different effects on the human body, from these substances. When he in the 25th year of his age obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine at Edinburgh, he chose as the subject of his Thesis, *De Humore acido a Cibus orto, & de Magnesia alba*.

In consequence of the removal of Doctor Cullen from Glasgow to the chymical chair in Edinburgh, Doctor Black in 1756 was called to succeed him as professor of medicine and lecturer on chymistry. When Dr. Cullen was removed to the medical chair as lecturer upon the theory and upon the practice of medicine, alternately with Doctor Gregory, Doctor Black was looked up to, as the only man capable of supporting the reputation in this branch which this celebrated school had acquired in every other.

The merit of Doctor Black, the intention of the town council and professors of Edinburgh having been known at Glasgow, his fellow professors convinced they could not have an opportunity of hearing lectures on chymistry so extensively useful, generally attended him the season previous to his removal; a compliment so great they had not before paid to any other professor. Agreeably to the expectations and wishes of all who knew his merit, he was chosen professor of

chymistry in Edinburgh on the 17th of April 1766. In this situation he did not disappoint the expectations of his friends; he taught the theory and practice of chymistry for 30 years with a reputation always increasing.

He was disposed to asthma and spitting of blood which necessarily obliged him to observe a low, cool regimen; he was consequently pale and slender. His asthmatic complaints prevented him from using much exertion in speaking, yet he spoke with so much propriety and accuracy, and without any provincial accent, that he was distinctly heard in the most distant corners of the hall in which he lectured. In this he was greatly assisted by the silence and attention of his Pupils.

After the manner of Boerhaave, he divided his course of lectures into two sections; the first contained the theory, the second the practice of chymistry. In the first section he taught, with the theories of authors, his own inventions and theories.

He described the experiments by which he found the qualities of magnesia. 1st. That it was not a species of lime, but a pure and simple earth; that it is found united with acids, as in sea-water, in the bittern which remains after the crystallization of common salt, in the salt commonly called epsom salt, and is often found mixed with limestone and with clay. 2nd. It is soluble in all the acids, but its attraction for them is weaker than that of fixed alkali, or of calcareous earth, but equal to the attraction of volatile alkali for them. 3d. That it unites with the gas formerly called by Dr. Hales fixed air, more strongly than volatile alkali, but not so strongly as calcareous earth or fixed alkali does.

By his experiments upon magnesia and calcareous earths, he found out the qualities of the gas called fixed air, now by the French chymists named carbonic acid gas. He found the effects it has upon pure calcareous earth, or lime, and upon pure alkalis, upon magnesia, and upon water when united with these substances, and the effects it has upon the animal economy.

Ancient chymists ascribed the changes which bodies undergo in the fire, to particles of fire united to them, es-

pecially such bodies, as, after having been calcined, had acquired a great attraction for animal and vegetable substances, and a great degree of acrimony, called therefore causticity; such as calcareous earths calcined to quick lime, and fixed alkalis, exposed to great heat; but Dr. Black, by his experiments upon calcareous earths, found that fire did not add any thing to them, but expelled from them an elastic vapour, which, because it seemed to have been fixed or solid in stone, was called fixed air, which name he continued because it was already familiar in philosophy. He found by experiments, that 120 grains of chalk, by solution in acid, or burning, lost 48 grains of this air.

He found that the mildness of alkalis is owing to a great quantity of this gas united to them; and that it is separable from them by quick-lime, and that then the alkalis are caustic. And, as alkalis have a stronger attraction for water than lime has, they attract water from lime, and give it the fixed air. Solutions of them in this state are called caustic leys. When it is united to magnesia, alkalis, or quick-lime, they effervesce with acids; when separated, they do not.

This is the gas which escapes from liquors in the act of fermentation, and which is often found in mines and in caves, called choak-damp.

In the time of burning inflammable bodies, that part of the atmospheric air which is called pure air, unites with the charred substance, and acquires the same qualities as the fixed air; so does air in respiration: it extinguishes flame, and destroys animal life.

The weight of this air makes it capable of being contained some time in open vessels, and it can, like water, be poured from one vessel to another. This is the cause of the death of dogs in the celebrated cave in Italy called Grotto del Cané. While the master's head is above this noxious vapour he escapes unhurt; but if on the contrary the man would take in a full inspiration of it, he would instantly fall down dead. This air is the cause of the danger of entering vats from which fermenting liquor has been drawn without purifying them; and the danger of burning charcoal in close rooms.

and shows the necessity of trying all such places as mines, caves, vats, and deep wells, with lighted candles; if it extinguishes them, it will certainly destroy animal life.

This air, so destructive when applied to the nerves, is most salutary when taken into the stomach, either in the form of gas, or when united to water; it is then a very agreeable acid liquor. When externally applied, it cleanses foul ulcers, and stops gangrene. It dissolves the stone, or human calculus, and cures this most painful disease.

The astonishing qualities of this air soon attracted the attention of foreign experimental philosophers. Black's experiments were repeated and his doctrines confirmed and received in opposition to every received opinion to the contrary. They excited the attention of Chymists to the investigation of every elastic fluid, by which many discoveries of great importance in the science of nature have been made; the substances air and water, which were antiently supposed elements, are now known to be compounds; and many supposed compounds are now known to be simple elements. Hence the great discoveries of the different elastic gases, by Scheele, Priestley, Cavendish and Lavoisier, and hence the very important addition of pneumatic chymistry to the system. When Lavoisier published his book of experiments on respiration, he sent a copy of it to Dr. Black, and wrote to him—"It is but just you should be one of the first to receive information of the progress made in a career which you yourself had opened, and in which we all consider ourselves your disciples."

About the winter of 1736 and 1737 he discovered the doctrine of Latent Heat, which is great by the elegant simplicity of the experiments by which he demonstrated it; and great in its consequences, because it enables us to account for many appearances of nature, which cannot be accounted for without it. Latent heat is a degree of heat contained in bodies which is not perceptible by our senses, nor indicated by the thermometer, but on proper occasions assumes a sensible form. When water sinks the thermometer to 32° , the freezing point,

it does not freeze till it sinks it 3° , 4° , or 8° degrees lower, and then only a small quantity of ice appears; then the thermometer rises to 32° , because the ice cannot contain so much heat as the water, it gives out its heat instantly to it. If sensible cold alone were sufficient to the congelation of water, the whole of it would be congelated at the freezing point, whereas it requires some days to congeal it, suppose the air is six or eight degrees below the freezing point. This does not happen till all the heat which is indiscoverable in the water, emerges and becomes sensible. The same happens in all bodies when they pass from a fluid to a solid state; again, when bodies pass from a solid to a fluid state, a great quantity of sensible heat is absorbed by them. When a thaw comes, the thermometer may rise in the open air six or eight degrees above the freezing point, and the snow on the ground will then be at the freezing point, and will continue at this degree for days or weeks, although it is certainly receiving sensible heat from the air all this time, and the water flowing from it is not sensibly warmer than the snow. The heat received from the air is taken up by the water, and retains it till it is again reduced to a solid form. The same is observable in all bodies when they pass from a solid to a fluid state.

When water has passed from a solid to a fluid state, and heat is gradually applied till it raises the thermometer to 212° , then it gradually assumes a volatile form. It becomes transparent and elastic like air. This is not suddenly effected, it is gradual, although the fire is constant and continually applied; neither the water, nor the vapour, or steam raise the thermometer above the boiling point, and we must chiefly remark, he put water into cylindrical iron vessels, and set them upon an iron kitchen table, which was red hot: in four minutes the water rose to the boiling point, but was not evaporated in less than twenty or twenty-five. Although the heat in this case was evidently gradually continued, no increase of heat was observed in the steam or in the water, yet that it is contained in the steam is evident from what happens in the re-

Rigidity of a common still; the water in it is heated as much by condensation of the steam of a pint of water, as it would be by cooling a pound of iron made red hot; i. e. the steam of a pint of water contains in it heat in a latent state, equal to eight hundred degrees, and upwards.

This is evident from calculation, by reckoning how much heat passes into the water before it arrives at the vaporific point, and then how long the heat is continued before all is evaporated, generally five times as long, as we may be certain equal quantities of heat pass into the water at equal times; then suppose 158 or 160 degrees of heat is thrown into the water, from the time it is set on an iron kitchen-table till it begins to boil, then 160 multiplied by 5, the time of its entire evaporation, is equal to 800 degrees of heat, carried off by the steam, and concealed or latent in it.

The same or similar appearances are observed in spontaneous evaporation. Dr. Black's doctrines of latent heat and of fixed air, are the foundation of the most rational theories of the heat produced by combustion, and breathing of animals: a vast quantity of heat is latent in our atmosphere, which becomes sensible when united with carbon, or the matter of charcoal, and becomes what Dr. Black and others called fixed air, because it was fixed in calcareous earths. In burning inflammable bodies, the carbon is united to pure air, and expells the heat from it which was latent in it, and causes it to become sensible, and can be communicated from one body to any other in contact with it. When animals draw pure air into the lungs it acquires carbon; becomes fixed air, which is not capable of containing so much heat as the pure air, leaves a great part of it in the lungs, which is communicated to the blood, and brings part with it in the breath. That animals acquire their heat by the lungs was conjectured by Dr. Black and Dr. Irvine, but the process was demonstrated by the late Dr. Adair Crawford of London, a native of the parish of Crumlin, in the county of Antrim.

This important doctrine of latent heat was never published by Dr. Black, but copies of his lectures were carried

to the Continent by his students, who attended his lectures from every part of Europe. Some writers were improved by reading them, and published his discoveries as their own, as appears from a copy of a letter to Mr. James Watt, published in the 2nd. vol. of De Luc's *Meteorologie*, in which Mr. Watt insists that Dr. Black had first discovered and demonstrated, that heat is absorbed, and is combined with bodies when they are rendered fluid or vaporous.

The first work published by Dr. Black is his inaugural Dissertation upon fixed air and magnesia, of which he gave a more particular account in a small volume in English, which he afterwards finished and improved in a Dissertation published in the second volume of the *Edinburgh Physical and Literary Essays and Observations*.

An Essay of his upon the effect of lime upon alkaline salts, and a method pointed out whereby it may be used with safety and advantage in bleaching, was published in Dublin, in 1771. A Memoir of his upon the more ready freezing of water that has been boiled, was published in the *Philosophical Transactions of London*, in 1774. An Account of his Experiments, and of his analysis of the waters of some boiling hot Springs, near Hecla, in Iceland, which contain flint in solution, was published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*.

A copy of his lectures was published by the late Dr. John Robinson, of Edinburgh, in two volumes, quarto, in 1803. A Letter published by Crell, in the 10th vol. of his *Collections*; another to Lavoisier, published in *Annales des Chemie*. Why a man so eminently qualified, did not join in the pursuits of Scheele, Priestley and Lavoisier, can only be conjectured from the delicacy of his constitution, which always was injured by confinement and intense study; they induced a spitting of blood, which obliged him to submit to a low debilitating regimen of diet; however, by this regimen his tender frame was preserved, and his life was prolonged till the 71st year of his age. Sitting at table, the 20th November, 1799, with his usual

fare, bread, prunes and milk, diluted with water, he was found dead, his knees close together, and the cup upon them, without having spilled a drop.

His servant found him in this seemingly easy posture, supposed him asleep, went out and shut the door, but when half down stairs, some thought or apprehension of danger struck him, he returned and looked again at his master; he went away a second time, and returned in the same manner, and upon examination found him dead.

So ended a life which had been spent in pursuit of useful knowledge, so far as the delicacy of his frame and his exertions for the improvement of his pupils permitted. His researches and discoveries procured him the respect and admiration of all acute and discerning philosophers; they laid the foundation of pneumatic chemistry.

The delicacy of his constitution prevented him from constant study, and a multiplicity of experiments; his hours of relaxation were spent in airing on horseback, and in the practice of the fine arts. His taste for drawing was correct, and he was a perfect judge of music, he could sing or play on the flute, any plain air at first sight. Although his voice was weak, it was sweet and under perfect command. But he never indulged in poetical flights of the imagination. He delighted in the company of men of taste and literature, such as David Hume, Dr. Adam Smith, and Dr. Ferguson. They who were particularly attached to him, were those who had a taste for geological pursuits. Such were Mr. I. Clerk of

Eldon, who, although he was never at sea, by his work upon naval tactics, has taught our admirals to achieve the greatest victories, Dr. Roebuck and Mr. James Watt and Mr. Geddes of Leith, philosophic machinists, were particularly attached to him; so was Dr. James Hutton the writer of geological essays, in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the great improver of his country, by introducing the Norfolk husbandry into it.

Dr. Black's taste was consulted not only in composition, but in music, drawing, and architecture. That he studied elegance and simplicity appears from his compositions, and even from his lectures, as they are collected and published by Dr. Robertson; it appeared in his dress, his countenance and in his conversation.

Regularity and method appeared in his whole conduct; of this his last will is a remarkable example. His property was chattle; he so arranged it before his death, that his executors had the least possible trouble. The whole of his property was to be divided into a number of shares, which were distributed among his relations in a manner becoming the propriety and regularity of his character.

Separated as he was from his parents at an early period of his life, he did not forget their tender and affectionate regard, but continued to love, honour, and revere them. He and his brothers and sisters lived on terms of mutual attachment and love. He never lost a friend, but by the fatal stroke of death. His pupils held him in grateful remembrance.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

A Receipt for making Family Wine, extracted from the Bath and West of England Society's Letters and Papers on Agriculture, Planting, &c. furnished by William Matthews of Bath. One of the Correspondents objects to using spirits in the compound; they may be used or not at the choice of the maker.

TAKE black currants—red ditto—white ditto—ripe cherries

(black hearts are the best)—rasberries—each an equal, or nearly an equal quantity; if black currants be the most abundant, so much the better. To 4lb of the mixed fruit, well bruised, put one gallon of clear, soft water; steep three days and nights in open vessels, frequently stirring up the mass; then strain through a hair sieve. The remaining pulp press to dryness. Put both liquids together,

and to each gallon of the whole put three pounds, good, rich, moist sugar, of a bright yellowish appearance. Let the whole stand again three days and nights, frequently stirring up as before, after skimming off the top. Then turn it into casks, and let it remain full and purging at the bung hole, about two weeks. Lastly, to every nine gallons put one quart of good brandy, and bung down. If it does not soon drop fine, a steeping of isinglass may be introduced, and stirred into the liquid, in the proportion of about half an ounce to nine gallons.

N. B. Gooseberries, especially the largest, rich-flavoured, may be used in the mixture to great advantage; but it has been found the best way to prepare them separately, by more powerful bruising, or pounding, so as to form the proper consistence in pulp, by putting six quarts of fruit to one gallon of water, pouring on the water at twice; the smaller quantity at night, and the larger the next morning. This process, finished as aforesaid, will make excellent wine, unmixed, but this fluid added to the former mixture, will sometimes improve the compound.

Several hogsheads of wine have been thus manufactured by Mr. M. which was pronounced to be of excellent quality.

The Means of preventing the Decay of Wood; by Dr. Parry. From the same.

The dry rot is more or less a rapid decomposition of the substance of wood, from moisture deposited on it by condensation, to the action of which it is more exposed on certain situations than others; and that this moisture operates more quickly on wood, which most abounds with saccha-

rine, or fermentible juices of the sap. This evil may be infallibly prevented where it is practicable to cover the surface of the wood properly dried, with a varnish which is impenetrable, and indestructible by water. The circumstance of having the wood properly dried, or seasoned, is of great importance; because timber, which is painted before its saccharine moisture or sap is exhaled, is often destroyed by dry rot. From the insufficiency of common oil-paint to preserve wooden fences, weather-boarding, &c. Dr. Parry made various experiments to obtain a more effectual covering. He recommends the following composition, which he himself has tried with great success.

Take twelve ounces of resin and eight ounces of roll brimstone, each coarsely powdered, and three gallons of train oil. Heat them slowly, gradually adding four ounces of bees-wax, cut in small bits. Frequently stir the liquor, which, as soon as the solid ingredients are dissolved, will be fit for use. What remains unused will become solid on cooling, and may be re-melted on subsequent occasions.

It is necessary to mention that compositions made of hot oil, should, for the sake of security, be heated in metallic or glazed earthen vessels, in the open air. For whenever oil is brought to the boiling point, or 600° of Fahrenheit's thermometer, the vapour immediately catches fire, although not in contact with any flame, and though a lower degree of temperature than that of boiling should be used in this process it is not always practicable either exactly to regulate the heat, or to prevent the overflowing of the materials; in either of which cases, were the melting performed in a house, the most fatal accident might follow.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

NEW MODE OF AGRICULTURE.

STRANGE and ludicrous as it may appear, the following economical mode of agriculture, was practised by a farmer, near Ballyclare, about forty years ago. Previous to sowing, he mounted the horse destined to harrow,

and being furnished with the necessary seed, he proceeded to sow, harrow and ride all at once! This I believe surpasses any thing mentioned in the annals of agriculture, or by Mr. Gaudado, in his annals of horsemanship.

MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. Shelly, of Jesus College, and vicar of All Saints, was a puritan, and lived early in the seventeenth century. He is described as "an old-fashioned good man." He made the following lines extempore, in reply to a question from one of his parishioners, as he was going to preach in his parish church. How long, Sir, have you and Mrs. Shelly been married?—The excellent lesson inculcated, render them worthy to be recorded:

"Fifty years and three
Together in love liv'd we;
Angry both at once none ever did us see.
This was the fashion
God taught us, and not fear,
When one was in a passion
The other could forbear."

CITY OF BAGDAD.

At the time when Abu Jaafar Almansur, Caliph of the Saracens, begun his reign (about the year of the Christian era, 754) the ground on which Bagdad was afterwards built, had nothing on it but the cell of a Christian monk, called Dad, and a garden adjoining it. Whence it took the name of Bagdad, which signifies in the language of the country *the garden of Dad*. The city being built by the same Caliph, on that spot, retained the ancient name.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF MACHABEUS.

When Judas, surnamed Machabæus, took the command of the Jews who had taken up arms against the Sepians, he chose for the motto on his standard, the following Hebrew sentence, taken from the fifteenth chapter of Exodus. *Mi Camo-Ka Bælim Jehovah: Who is like unto thee among the gods, O Jehovah!* this sentence not being written in words at length, but by an abbreviation, formed of the initial letters of each word taken together, made the artificial word *Makabi*; hence all that fought under that standard were called *Macabees* or *Macabæans*, and their captain in an especial manner, had that name given him by way of eminence.

DEATH BEFORE DISHONOUR.

The Baron de Mizelandwitz was one of the Swedish senate that was deprived of its rights by the late king of Sweden, upon the memorable re-

volution of that government, which changed it into an absolute monarchy. Upon that event he quitted his country, though he possessed an estate worth 10,000*l.* a year, saying that he would suffer the most wretched exile abroad, rather than remain a slave where he had a right to freedom. He took up his residence at Hamburg, where he lived ever after in great poverty, lodging in a miserable apartment, and waiting entirely on himself. The king wrote twice to him in the most flattering terms, inviting him to return to his estate and honours, but he never took any notice of the letters; and upon his majesty sending him a remittance to enable him to live more comfortably, he refused it, sternly saying, "I will rather die than receive a dollar at the hands of one who has enslaved my country."

DISAPPOINTMENT SOMETIMES USEFUL.

Disappointment of early views has been the means of advancement to several eminent men. Dr. Ferguson was disappointed in an application for an inconsiderable living in an obscure part of Scotland. Had he been successful, he would have been occupied with the duties of his profession, and his philosophical talents thus lost to the world. Had Dr. Johnson been master of the Staffordshire school, talents formed for the instruction of men, might have been wasted in the tuition of boys. Burke, when young, applied for the professorship of logic, in Glasgow; had he been successful, he might have been considered as one of the luminaries of that celebrated seat of science, but would never have acquired the honour and fame that his political pursuits have given him.

JUVENILE ANECDOTE OF EDMUND BURKE.

When Burke was at school, near Carlow, his teacher permitted his pupils to have a play-day to see the procession accompanying the judge on his entering the town, on condition that the elder boys should give a description in Latin verse of the objects they had been viewing, and their own sentiments on them. Burke gave a very full and able description of what he had seen and heard. A school-fellow, who on such occasions always

found it necessary to depend on the superior talents and industry of others, applied to him, but too late for any serious attention to be given to the subject; Burke, whose ideas were now nearly exhausted by the multiplicity of applications to which he had already acceded, wished to get some hints from the boy himself, but by all his in-

quiries could discover nothing that appeared to have interested his thoughts but a fat piper in a brown coat. The young poet therefore wrote a string of verses beginning thus:

Piper erat fatter, qui browdum tegmen habebat,
 and continued it in the same style through a series of lines.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE SLAUGHTER OF CARMEN.

A BALLAD.

"CARMEN is now called Mullinast, or Mullach Masteah, the moat of decapitation. It takes its present name from the base conduct of some adventurers in the sixteenth century, who, having over-run much of the neighbouring country, were resisted by some Irish chieftains, who had properties on the Queen's-county side of the Barrow. The adventurers proposed an amicable conference to be held at Carmen; it was acceded to. On the Kalends of January (New-year's-day) in the nineteenth of Elizabeth, the gentlemen of the Queen's-county side of the Barrow, then the boundary of the pale, repaired to Carmen, as to an amicable conference, when they were surrounded by three lines of horse and foot, and not one survived. Thirty years since a hole was showed, where, it was said, the heads of the victims were buried; at that period it was twenty feet deep, it is now nearly closed. The successful assassins took possession of the properties of the unfortunate gentlemen, and the barony bears the name of Slieve Mauge, or the Mountains of Mourning. In such detestation is that act held by the country people, that they believe a descendant from the murderers never saw his son arrive at the age of twenty-one. Indeed the properties, so acquired, have melted away, and got into other hands."

Russell's sur. co. Kildare

"O WHITHER, whither do ye go?
 Why are your steeds so sleek and trim?
 While your embroider'd mantles flow,
 In graceful folds o'er every limb.
 BELFAST MAG. NO. XI.

Your mothers, wives and sisters fair,
 These mantles form'd so rich and gay;
 For coat and skill they scorn'd to spare,
 To deck you for the holiday.

Forgive an old man's anxious fear,
 My heart forebodes a day of woe!
 Behold yon Raven hovering near,
 O whither, whither do ye go?"

"O Patrick of the woody glen,
 Whom much we honour, more we love,
 Who sees, with Wisdom's sharpen'd ken,
 The secret snare by malice wove.

These snares no more our paths infest,
 We go to form the friendly band,
 With confidence to arm the breast,
 And yield to plighted faith the hand.

In open warfare long our arms
 The intruding Strangers have withstood;
 But now secure from war's alarms,
 We cross the Barrow's silver flood.

The Rath on Carmen rises fair,
 Thither our willing course we bend,
 The strangers wait our presence there,
 To hail us by the name of Friend.

Hence Peace shall bless the new-born year,
 Our herds and flocks secure shall stray;
 Our harvests wave the golden ear,
 Our maids and youths again be gay.

O Patrick of the woody glen,
 Call not this day a day of woe,
 When men shall meet their fellow men,
 And ancient feuds for aye forego!"

But Patrick bent his hoary head,
 On earth he cast his mournful eyes,
 And bitter were the tears he shed,
 And bitter were his deep drawn sighs.

"O pride of Barrow's smiling shore,
 Gay lords of many a fertile plain,
 O turn your steps—or never more;
 You greet your native shades again.

Methodists I see the bloody skan,*
 Methodists I hear the dying groan,

*The long Irish knife, or dagger.

M M M

With traitorous guile your foes convene,
To make your fertile fields their own.

And must your generous bosoms bleed,
Which scorn'd a treacherous art to know?
And was this fate for you decreed?
O turn—to Carmen, do not go!"

"Oft have we listen'd to thy lore,
And not shall seek thy counsel sage,
But now forbear to urge us more,
Thou man of wisdom and of age.

Let not thy pure, benignant soul
The pain of dire Suspicion know;
Permit not her aspersions foul
To stain "the brave, repenting foe."†

"Soon shalt thou see these shadows fly
Before fair Candour's beaming ray!"
But Patrick veil'd his streaming eye,
And turn'd in silent grief away.

And now advanc'd the impatient steeds,
And bore their gallant lords along;
The fearless breast no danger heeds,
The guiltless heart forebodes no wrong.

And Barrow roll'd his silver tide,
Bright sparkling in the solar ray,
No sanguine stain his waters dyed,
No clouds obscur'd the golden day.

The Rath on Carmen rises fair,
"But why in arms the friendly band?"
Why rang'd in martial order there!
Why does the weapon fill each hand?

These hands, these eyes with scowling ken
Their purpose dire too well explain!
O Patrick of the woody glen,
Why was thy warning *heard* in vain?

The embroider'd mantle, roll'd in blood,
Flows graceful o'er the limbs no more,
Nor e'er shall cross his silver flood,
The pride of Barrow's smiling shore.

The pit is fram'd with ruffian speed,
The pit is dreary, dark and deep,
Fram'd to receive each gallant head
In cold oblivion there to sleep.

The mothers, wives and sisters fair,
Who anxious watch'd the setting day,
The dainty banquet now prepare,
And now accuse the long delay.

Ye beauteous ladies, leave your homes,
Some safer shelter haste to find,
For lo! the cruel spoiler comes,
And Rapine has to Murder join'd.

They seize upon these wide domains,
The flocks, the herds their prey is made,
Grim terror rules the subject plains,
And with reluctance is obey'd.

The stain of honour, manhood's shame,
For Carmen's Rath was this decreed!

† Anna Seward.

While Mullimah, ill-fated name,
Records the base, the bloody deed!

The Mountains, which aspiring fair,
Smiled on the dewy vales below,
The title now of mourning bear,
As conscious of the voice of wo.

But vengeance comes—if slow, yet sure;
Her step pursues the band unblessed,
And conscience bids these pangs endure,
Which rob the blood-stain'd soul of rest.

Their souls to manhood ne'er shall rise,
Their youth's soft blossoms shall decay,
And these fair fields of guilt they prize,
To other hands shall pass away.

BRIDGET.

ANALYSIS OF 1809.

Continued from our last.

ONCE more, sweet Imps, I come to make my bow,
With meet complacency, inquiring how
You all have been since last I took my leave;
And that you now will kindly condescend
Truly and faithfully (as to a friend)

Each particle of news to impart, I humbly crave

Tell how the half-starv'd Irish peasant writhes
Under the lash of proctor-gather'd tythes;
How, ministerial apathy denies
Redress, though sought for by a nation's cries!

Tell, how the *wortler*-bartering, borough lord!
To drive the Union,—pledg'd—then broke—his word:
Yet, out of ev'ry scrape comes off so nice—

"Sir, vice, when omnipresent—is not *viced*"
"Plund'ring the State, to gain a little pelf,
"Can be no crime—there's Melville and myself,—
"Myriads beside—as all the people know;
"Then, who, unto my blanket dares say *be*?
"Get into office straight, and cheat your fill,
"And when you're blam'd—quote me and *Roachamp*
"Hill!"

"Stop, stop!" (the Imps I know will now exclaim)

"Is Castlereagh still to be your theme?
"Some virtues surely you'll allow the lad."
Assertion and denial (don't be pert)
Join'd with a cold, malignant, callous heart,
Are all the virtues that he ever had!

"Lord, sir, you really have a curious taste;
"Sure you'll allow that he is *marvellous* chaste!
"That *Canning*—*Percival* * * * and so
"Are famous for suppressing Popery!
"Which, in their presence, dare not even sight;
"While *Orthodoxy*—*Rev'nues*—*Church and State*,
"Are wisely guarded from the danger great,
"That they in Tolerantion can espy.

Alibi mei enfans—answer me again—

Three victories by Sir Arthur—gain'd in Spain!

The original—where did his lordship get?

"The original, sweet sir, what need of that?

"Such things are made at home," we answer flat—
The original—he did not get it yet!

Well, let us all such foreign subjects change;
Come now, and soar above your usual range;
To Bishop's-gate we'll march, if you think fit;
Where many a bloated—loan-contracting dinner
Sits down to gorge himself, at annual dinner
Given in honour of his idol—Pitt!

See *Canning*—when the sparkling glasses ring
With health of *Brundage*, "*Spain's most lawful*
"king."†

How graciously he'll rise, and make a speech!
On *British generosity* decant—
About—"a universal people"—rant,
And on official secrets wisely preach!!!

"*Austria* (with our assistance (next he'll tell 'em)
"Must take the field—no matter what befell 'em.
And then convince them all beyond denial
That—"though she could not hope to win, 'twas
"right to make the trial."

The trial she has made, to her own cost,
And like *Sir Cranston's* elfin dwarf, may say
As *Walter Scott* hath written—in the *Lay*
Of the last Minstrel—"Lost—lost—lost!"

Well, gentle Imps, your modesty is great,
"We are not prophets, sir,"—you erst did state,
Then how the vengeance did you come to know
The event of such things so long ago!

"Lord, sir, 'bout Europe many a grievous task
"You've given us, pray why do you not ask
"About *America* and its embargo's?

"There's many a pretty ambo-dexter story,
"Which we could mighty feastly lay before you,
"Respecting naval stores—and neutral cargoes.

Edentonville, 7th June, 1809. CALDERONE.
To be continued.

INSENSIBILITY.

BEING RALLIED FOR NOT GRIEVING AT
THE DEPARTURE OF A FEMALE FRIEND.

"MY tenderest feelings! ah, where are they fled?
Those sweetest sensations, say, are they all dead,
ay, am I no more for a dear friend departed,
to weep, and to sigh, and to feel broken-hearted.
Here once was a time I could sigh and could weep,
and thought that my grief was both cruel and deep,
The scenes all around me produced nought but pain,
Till my friend should return to these scenes back
again.

Then the trees were all dripping with fine April
showers,
and the sun shone upon them, and spangled the
flowers,
thought that my friend with new force could in-
spire

† To the London Tavern, we presume.

† Either the minister or the poet must be guessing;
is not Charles the Fourth living?

My fancy to see all these charms, and admire.
Or when in full concert the birds sweetly sang,
Their songs were divine, yet they caused me a pang;
Or in that fine season when active and gay,
Youth reap the ripe corn, or toast the new hay;
I thought if my friend a fair witness had been
'Twould add a new charm to the plentiful scene;
Or yet in those days when encircling the fire
Our wits, and the wits of our friends should conspire
The dull face of winter to cheer and adorn,
And forget that all nature is sad and forlorn;
Then sad and forlorn in the circle I sat,
Because my fair friend was not near me to chat;
My hours were fill'd up with some joy or some sorrow
Still hoping or fearing the events of to-morrow;
But in kindness to age which has oft real troubles
Those fanciful evils appear but light bubbles,
To prepare me for evils my passions are going;
No more are my joys or my sorrows o'erflowing.
If I wish for a friend I can patiently wait,
Till she chooses to come, whether early or late,
And when she departs I can scarce heave a sigh,
I kiss, and shake hands, and my eyes remain dry.
At first when I found that my feelings were gone,
The rapture they caused I could not but bemoan;
But now I'm resign'd to esteem as light bubbles
Both rapturous joys and fanciful troubles.
May the milder affections still reign in my breast,
Enjoying the present, and hoping the best;
Then if real affliction should visit my mind,
In calm resignation sweet peace may I find,
But oh! may I feel for the griefs of a friend,
Or my late acquit'd coldness soon come again!

FLORA.

WRITTEN ON A LITTLE SUMMER-HOUSE,
CALLED THE SOLITAIRE.

AND didst thou not know 'twas my
favourite retreat,

When retiring from bustle and care,
In the stillness of Silence to take here
my seat,

'Midst the quiet of this Solitaire?

But 'tis lock'd, and an entrance I can-
not obtain,

And the thought that now thrills on
my ear

May be lost in the mazes of business
and gain,

Unimproved in this chaste Solitaire.

I remember the day I first enter'd this
room,

The lawn was new-shorn, soft and
fair,

And the treasures of summer diffus'd
a rich bloom.

Shedding fragrance o'er this Solitaire.

Then I thought of the days, when to
gladness and joy,

My heart alone pant'd sincere,

When the dawns of reason peep'd
forth in the boy,
To give zest to the scene, Solitaire.

Now around this white feminine mansion
so neat,

May the pink and the violet appear,
May the snow drop of spring, and the
cyclamen sweet,
Scatter perfumes round this Solitaire !

Be the walk that leads down from this
charming retreat,

The resort of the Nightingale rare ;
May the blackbird and bullfinch here
nestle their seat,

And the linnets sing sweet Solitaire !

To entice from the house, in this season
of joy,

The mother and daughters so fair,
To the scene of calm comfort without
an alloy,

Embosom'd in this Solitaire.

May the spirit of Sadness be far from
this dome,

And angels protecting be near,
Where the stranger and poor, as of
yore, find a home ;
Now adieu to my friend's Solitaire.

INSCRIPTION,

PROPOSED FOR THE MONUMENT OF LOCKE.

"Who made the whole internal world his own."
Thomson.

RAPT Reader, if thou seek'st to under-
stand,

What wond'rous powers obey the human
mind ;

If Reason bid thee Superstition brand,
And Freedom fire thee to befriend man-
kind.

If thy instruction, up through Virtue's
path

To Honour's dome, the aspiring pupil
guides :

And if thou find'st that genuine Christian
Faith,

With Nature's law completely coincides,

Approach, unblam'd, and venerate the
shrine,

Of sapient LOCKE, the world's free mind-
ed friend,

Who spurn'd the prince that claim'd a
right divine,

And the false priest, whose conscience strove
to bend.

And, with his god-like spirit for thy guide,
While his firm statue seems the act to
eye,

Kneel down and swear, "that neither
force nor pride

Shall cause thee from his principles to
fly.

But that, should Wrongs be felt and
Factions spread,

Protecting Truth, thou'lt wisely onward
press,

'Till radical Reform shall end the dread
Of wild Revolt, and peace the People
bless."

And now—may all who on his valued
page,

Shall fix their eye, or here admiring
stand,

In Wisdom's walks seek glory, like the
Sage,

Who gain'd this tribute from his
grateful land !

Ballycarry.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

LITERATURE has felt the effects of
the war, from the interruption of the
intercourse between us and the Con-
tinent. But as, in consequence of the
present renewal of commercial in-
tercourse with Holland, the foreign
literary journals have arrived in En-
gland, we have, without loss of time,
availed ourselves of the assistance of
a gentleman in London, and now lay
before our readers some literary in-
telligence from the Continent. Among
which are the late proceedings of the
French National Institute. We are

also making arrangements for pro-
curing further interesting literary as-
sistance from England. We trust
those exertions will convince our
Readers of our resolution to render
the Belfast Monthly Magazine de-
serving of the encouragement it
has hitherto received, and stamp
it with the character for originality,
which we are desirous it should sup-
port.

THE celebrated Campe has pub-
lished the first volume of his Ger-
man Dictionary. It contains more than

near thousand 4to. pages, printed in two columns, and 26,735 articles, though it goes no further than the letter E. The second is to extend to L. Many, who are acquainted with the excellent Dictionary of Adelung, may think Mr. Campe has made a rash attempt; but impartial judges admit, that he has three advantages over his predecessor: 1st. Instead of confining himself, as Adelung did, to the dialect of Upper Saxony, Campe admits all the dialects of the Teutonic language, and the technical terms of all the arts: 2ndly. Adelung employed as authorities only authors older than himself. Campe has availed himself of the works of his contemporaries, among whom are Klopstock, Weiland, Goethe, Herder, Schiller, Voss, &c. 3dly. Campe has distinguished the use of words in the lofty and in the familiar style, which Adelung did not. It is to be regretted, however, that he has omitted every thing relative to etymology and synonyms; and that in his zeal for the purity of the German, while he is careful to banish all words borrowed from foreign languages, he has introduced many of his own manufacture, in which he is not always equally happy. Several of these have already afforded opportunities for the German critics to exercise their wit.

Mr. Rossmann, a protestant, of Munster, has published, with the approbation of the Vicars-general of the diocese, eleven Devout Hymns for Catholics, and this singular performance has met with great success among the pious of that communion.

A German version of the New Testament has lately been published at Brunswick, for the use of Christians of every denomination. It is the work of two Benedictines, Charles and Leander Von Ess, and is considered by judicious critics as the best extant. Two editions are printed; one intended particularly for the Catholics, differing from the other only in having some additions from the Vulgate. Both have received the approbation of the divines of the respective persuasions. The two learned Benedictines are engaged in translating the Old Testament, on similar principles.

Lectures on the Napoleon Code of Jurisprudence have been opened in

several German universities. Professor Olivarius, of Kiel, announced a course of lectures for the summer of 1807, in which he proposed to compare and comment upon the Danish, Roman, Jutland, Prussian, and Napoleon codes, and endeavour thence to deduce principles for a new code, adapted to the whole of the Danish monarchy.

Mr. Antony Szirmay has published at Pest, a political, Historical, and Topographical Description of the county of Ugocsa, of which he is a native. It was printed at the expense of the governor. He had before given a similar description of the county of Zempfen.

Dicuilii Liber de Mensurâ Orbis Terræ, has lately been published, for the first time, by C. A. Waackenaar, from two manuscripts in the Imperial Library at Paris. It is an octavo pamphlet of five sheets.

Dr. Krutmeyer has printed, at Stockholm, the Journal of Count Peter Brahe, Marshal of Sweden. It includes a period of thirty-six years, from 1618 to 1655; and as the author, living under Gustavus Adolphus and Queen Christina, had a share in the principal political events of the times, it might have been very interesting, had he not restricted himself to a brief narrative of facts, without any attempt to develop their causes.

Two new Societies have lately been formed at Copenhagen, with the approbation of the government, one for promoting the Veterinary Art, the other for extending the knowledge of Danish Antiquities.

A new and improved edition of Muller's German and Danish Dictionary, is publishing in octavo. The first volume, containing fifty sheets, comprises only the first five letters of the alphabet.

On the 24th of May, 1807, the birth day of the celebrated Linnæus, a new Society was opened at Upsal, under the title of *Institutum Linnæanum*. After a speech by Professor Afzelius, a medal was delivered to each of the members, having on one side a bust of the Swedish naturalist, and on the other the following inscription: "*Natatum memoriæ sæculari, D. xxiv Maii mdccevi, Institutum Linnæanum Upsaliense.*"

The following day was celebrated the dedication of a temple and greenhouse, erected in honour of Linnaeus.

Weitsch, painter to the court of Berlin, has finished a striking likeness of Von Humboldt botanizing. He is in the midst of an American landscape, and surrounded by the instruments he used to employ. It is engraving by Freddhof.

Among the literary losses occasioned by the bombardment of Copenhagen are to be regretted the libraries of professors Rusbrigh, Wolf, Kierulf, and Wøeldike. The first of these contained above 11000 volumes. Several printing-offices too were destroyed; and in that of Breum was burned, the manuscripts of Olassen's Supplement to Ihre's Sæco-Gothic Glossary, printing at the expense of the Royal Academy, a loss not easy to be repaired.

Mr. Zorga, the learned Dane, who has resided many years at Rome, is employed on a description of all the Basso Relieues existing in that ancient capital of the world, and its environs, capable of elucidating the history of the art, and the science of antiquities. It will appear in numbers containing six plates each, engraved by Pirolì. The text is in Italian.

A Catalogue of the Sanskreet Manuscripts in the Imperial Library, with an account of the Contents of most of them, by Mr. Alexander Hamilton, member of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, &c. and L. Langles, member of the French Institute, Keeper of the Oriental manuscripts of the Imperial Library, &c. has appeared in Paris.

J. E. D. Bernardi has published a new edition, in 2 vols. 12mo. of his Cicero's six Books on a Commonwealth, or on the best kind of Government, restored by the help of fragments and other writings of the author. He has now given the Latin opposite the French translation, and has added two dissertations, the object of one of which is to prove, that a tract of Cicero, entitled de Gloria, was extant in the 16th. century.

Voss has published a new edition of his Louisa, which he has enlarged near a thousand lines.

A complete translation of the works of Beaumont and Fletcher into German, is publishing at Berlin.

Mr. Heuberger, editor of the *Wesel Gazette*, has compiled a Dictionary of all the neologisms current among the writers of newspapers and other periodical publications.

The Letters and Negotiations of Mr. Lawrence Peter van der Spiegel, Grand-pensioner of Holland, during the late war between the United Provinces and the French Republic, published at Amsterdam in 3 vols. 8vo. may be presumed to exhibit some important documents, if not mutilated, or interpolated.

Mr. Michael Korats Martiny, proposes to publish Memoirs of a Political and Literary History of Hungary, extracted from Manuscripts and scarce books, under the title of *Fragmenta Literaria Rerum Hungaricarum*. The first volume is to contain an account of various articles respecting the ancient classics in the Corvina library; Memoirs of the Literary History of Hungary, from Manuscripts; acts of the Jewish Council, assembled in the plain of Nagy-Ida, the 12th, of October, 1650, And an Abstract of "The present State of Hungary, and History of the Wars there, to this day." Printed at London, in 1683, for H. Reade.

A National Hungarian Museum is forming at Pest, under the patronage of the Archduke Palatine. Count Szechynei, the founder of the library, has given 20000 florins, or above 2000 guineas, toward it, and many other considerable sums have been subscribed.

A Political and Geographical History of Walachia, from the earliest period to the year 1774, has been published at Vienna, in 1 vol. 8vo. It is in modern Greek, and supposed to have been written about 1775, in the Walachian language, by some Priest or Nobleman.

The different classes of the French National Institute are obliged to make an annual report of their labours; and as the interruption of our intercourse with France has prevented our knowledge of what has been doing in that country, we presume our readers will be gratified by our giving an abridgment of these reports from the year 1807, which have just reached our hands, and we hope that in future we shall be enabled to give them with regularity, soon after they are published.

We shall begin with the class of ancient history and literature.

Mr. Monger, persuaded that in the history of the ancients, nothing is altogether unimportant, and that the precise sense of words apparently of little consequence, is frequently connected with the history of their arts or customs, has paid particular attention to the word *creta*, which he finds to have been used in three different senses by some of the best authors: most commonly it is equivalent to *clay*, frequently to *marle*, and sometimes, though seldom, to *chalk*. The *marga* of the Latins was synonymous with our *marle*, and their *argilla* with our *clay*.

The same gentleman has analysed part of the handle of a spoon, found among various articles of a similar metal, supposed to have been used by the Roman soldiers, and found it to consist of tin alloyed with, between a third and fourth of lead. From this he proceeds to examine a passage in Pliny, lib. 34, chap. 17, where it is said that the Romans adulterated their pure tin, *stannum*, by adding a third of its weight of *as candidum*, which made *plumbum album*. Mr. Monger considers this *as candidum* as the mixture of copper, lead, tin, and zinc, called by the French *potin*. In a subsequent passage of the same chapter, Pliny mentions, as a property of the *plumbum album*, that when melted it would break through paper, rather by its weight apparently, than by its heat. Hence this seems to have been of the nature of Newton's fusible metal, and consequently the *as candidum* was a mixture of lead and bismuth.

Another paper by Mr. Monger is on an ancient tomb discovered in 1778, on digging in a church-yard at Lyons. The epitaph begins *Memoria aeterna Exomii Paterniani quondam Centurionis legionarii, &c.* The unusual epithet, *Legionarius*, Mr. M. supposes to have been added, to show that *Exominius Paternianus* was an officer in one of the Roman legions, and not of the auxiliaries. There is another particularity in this tomb. The inscription is in a tablet, and at each end of this tablet is an appendage, resembling a tenon, on each of which are two proper names in Greek cha-

racters, with the Greek word of salutation at meeting on one, and that used at parting on the other. A similar particularity occurs on two other tombstones found at Lyons. Mr. Monger supposes, that some of the Greek Christians of Asia, who first established Christianity at Lyons, had availed themselves of these tombs for the interment of their dead, and added the Greek inscription, without defacing the Latin, as those contained nothing repugnant to their own faith.

Mr. Petit Radet, who has formed a theory of his own, from the examination of various remains of ancient walls, finds himself in opposition to the learned Fréret, on the origin of Argos. Fréret ascribes its foundation to a colony from Egypt, led by Phroneus, son of Inachus, and supposes the Greeks to have been indebted to the Egyptians for the first elements of the arts of social life. Mr. P. R. thinks, on the contrary, that the colony of Danaus, the third according to Fréret, was the first that came from Egypt into Europe, and that the Greeks had arts of their own before they knew any thing of the Egyptians. Having pointed out various inconsistencies, into which Fréret, and after him the author of *Anacharsis*, have fallen, and defended the veracity of Dionysius Halicarnassensis, he infers, that Inachus, the founder of Argos, was a Greek. The general inference drawn by Mr. P. R. from all his researches, is, that our historical hemisphere may be divided into two zones of antiquity very different from each other. One of these, which he terms Cyclopean, is formed according to the system of arts in Europe, namely, of vast blocks of stone, cut in regular polygons, and joined without cement, merely from the nice adaptation of the stones: the other, the Asiatic system, consists in stones cut in rectangular parallelograms. Throughout Italy and Greece, wherever the two have been found together, the Cyclopean structure always forms the base.

Mr. Toulougeon considered the amphitheatres of the Romans chiefly with a view to their moral effects. The place called *Spoliarium*, where those gladiators, of whose recovery there was little hope, were dispatched in

cold blood, the ferocity of the Romans, and their degradation, when young men of noble families fought in public for the amusement of the emperors, chiefly engaged his attention.

He also gave an account of an edition of *Cæsar's Commentaries*, which he is publishing previous to his new translation of this work.

Mr. Silvestre de Sacy had been appointed by the class to examine the archives of Genoa, in which a great number of Oriental MSS. were said to be preserved, but he appears to have found little worthy of notice of this kind. He could discover only a Hebrew Bible, with a commentary in the same language; part of one in a roll, written for the use of some synagogue; two treatises in Arabic, with the Arabian sovereigns of the Balearic islands, about the end of the 12th century, a treaty in the Armenian language; and a Turkish passport. There were several treatises, however, in more or less barbarous Latin, calculated to throw some light on the establishments of the Genoese, along the shores of the Black Sea, and on the coasts and islands of the Mediterranean. Mr. de S. likewise examined some other archives, particularly that of the Bank of St. George.

Mr. Barbré du Bocaye read an abstract of an account of a hydrographic atlas in the library of Talleyrand, drawn in the 16th century. Mr. B. asserts, that the coasts of New Holland are laid down in it, and that they were discovered by the Portuguese, before the English or Dutch had any knowledge of them; though the discovery was lost to the Portuguese through the treachery of Don Michael de Sylva, bishop of Viseu, a favourite of the king (another French geographer who appears to have examined this atlas, contends, that the land to which Mr. B. alludes, is not New Holland; and his arguments show, that it is at least very questionable.)

Mr. Pougens, in a dissertation on the goddess Nehalennia, concludes, that she was a local divinity; and that she presided in Zealand over maritime commerce and public markets.

The history of the *Croisades* constituting a very important part of that of the middle ages, every thing

relative to them merits attention. Mr. Brial has in consequence sought for information respecting the assembly held at Chartres on occasion of the *croisade* of Lewis the Young. This, which has been styled a parliament of the kingdom, and supposed by men of the highest reputation to have taken place in 1146, was not held till 1150. In 1146 and 1147 assemblies were held at Bourges, Vezelay, and Etampes, the object of which was, to make preparations for a *croisade*. In that of Chartres it was determined, not only to succour the Christians in the Holy Land, the common pretext of the *croisaders*, but to revenge on the Greek Emperors the disasters, that former *Croisaders* had experienced from their treacherous policy. It was in this assembly too, and not in 1146, that St. Bernard was chosen to be the head of a new *croisade*, which was to be undertaken at the expense of the clergy of France; the king and nobles, so lately returned from an expedition to the east, being too much exhausted both of men and money, to attempt another. Nothing was effected by this assembly however, the project being abandoned almost as soon as it was conceived.

In a Statistical and Historical Essay, Mr. Mentelle has traced the growth of the house of Austria, and the loss it has experienced, from the exaltation of Rodolphus of Hapsburgh to the treaty of Austerlitz. According to him the Austrian territories, which at the beginning of the reign of Francis II. included 13994 German miles, square, were reduced by that treaty to 10738, or 29842 French leagues, containing a population of 22,004,800 persons, and producing a revenue of 103 or 104 millions of florins (about 12 millions sterling.)

Mr. Dupont de Nemour read some chapters of a History of the English Finances. He finds a great advantage in drawing the revenue from the land, as it furnishes the public with the supplies at once, at a time when the necessity of them is obvious to every one, and leaving private property unaffected; while, if the supply have been sufficient, it renders all other taxes unnecessary. He likewise thinks it more advisable to take the revenue from

the clear income arising from the land, than for government to have a share of the land itself, as was the case in Egypt, or a part of the produce, as practised by the Chinese and Hebrews.

One object of the labours of the class was to produce designs for medals, to commemorate the grand events of the times. Two opposite opinions have arisen on this point. Some of the members are for exhibiting these in a figurative or emblematic manner, conformably to the principles generally admitted by artists, without any regard to times, places, or persons. Mr. Dupont, who is of the opposite opinion, has exhibited his reasons in two papers. He contends, that they should be completely historical, and that they should convey to all ages an accurate idea of the event, and of the time and place. The inscriptions therefore should be in French; and all the accessories, as well as the costume, should be faithful records of our arts, sciences and manners. Thus the ancients did, and we, while we blindly copy them, without adopting their

principles, stick to the dead letter, and neglect the spirit of their practice. In his second paper Mr. Dupont, applies this theory to some of the medals proposed.

The class not adopting the ideas of Mr. Dupont, Mr. Quatreinère de Quincy has written a long paper in defence of the opposite theory.

Many other papers, the Reporter, Mr. Ginguéné, passes over with barely mentioning them, as a Geographical and Historical Memoir on the Island of Salamis, by Mr. la Porte-du-Theil, intended as part of a larger work: an Account of the Tomb of Mausolus, by Mr. de Sainte-Croix, likewise a Fragment: Observations on the Zodiac of Dendera, by Dupuis, printed separately, and New Explanations of the Chronological and Mythological Zodiac, by the same: an Inquiry into the Origin, History, and Literary Labours of the Mantchou Tartars, by Mr. Langles, intended for separate publication; and a General Introduction to the first part of a History of Modern Literature, which Mr. Ginguéné is preparing to publish.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Advice and Directions to Hackney Coachmen, including some Practical Hints to Drivers in general, together with incidental allusions to several other elevated Characters, 12mo. p.p. 53
 Dublin: Martin, 1809, price 1s. 8d.

MANY attempts have been made to imitate Swift's popular pamphlet of advice to Servants, and some of them not without success. Among others we remember one addressed to Soldiers, which, though written by a person who had never been in a military capacity, when read to a superannuated veteran, had such an effect on him that he was highly delighted, and cried out "this fellow knows us as well as ourselves." Were we to judge in the same manner of the present production we would be strongly induced to think that the author was in the habit of familiar intercourse with the class that he addresses. It has some wit, chiefly

of that broad kind, for which the lower classes in this country are so famous, a great deal of cant collected chiefly from the slang of hackney drivers, and so far it deserves credit, as these are necessary to mark the character of an Irish coachman, but it is in several places very gross, and in one or two almost bordering on the obscene.

Yet it may not be without its use. Swift's intention was to correct errors by exposing them. He wished either to direct the servant to what he ought to do by telling him the contrary ironically, or to put the employers on their guard by publishing those little frauds and knaveries, which though some of them are too dull, and and others too negligent to detect, can be easily seen through, by such as have been put on their guard. Some of the tricks of hackney-drivers are here exposed in the same way.

and as most of these are played off on us country bumpkins, who are not up to the town, a few hints might not be without their use to us, when travelling in Dublin, were they told in a manner that did not occasionally excite our disgust. For our part, we freely confess that we are decided enemies to such books as must be crammed into our pockets whenever our wives or daughters turn the handle of the door, and are rather ill inclined towards those in which when reading to a female audience, we come unexpectedly to a full stop, and are obliged to turn over a page or two, and get ourselves out of the scrape as well as we can, with "well let's see what comes next."

The greediness of hackney coachmen is their most remarkable quality and of course most dwelt upon here, it is so proverbial, that there is a story current of two gentlemen, one of whom having said that it was impossible to satisfy them, the other proposed for a bet to prove the contrary. He accordingly took a coach off the stand, and having driven one or two streets, gave the driver a guinea. The fellow looked at it, and instead of offering to give change, or even to put it in his pocket and thank his employer, followed him with his hat in his hand; "Please your honour, wont you allow me something to drink?"

Their tricks to extort an extra penny, are very humorously described.

"When you wait upon a gentleman who happens to be in a violent hurry to his dinner where he expects to be too late; if by the way of being particularly clever, and to prevent any *scrimmage* with you in his friend's hall, he pays you a shabby fare in his own; grumble and abuse as much and as long as you can with safety to yourself; always keeping the fear of God and the Alderman before your eyes on such occasions. But if the fellow is hard hearted, and wont listen to reason, take the rascal at least half a mile round, and drive him *by act of parliament*; that is to say at the rate of two miles and a half an hour. First mistake the street, and then the house; when you are set right, give half a dozen of the

loudest and genteelst hackneyman's whoops in driving up to the door, so that the company who are done their dinner may hear you distinctly, and not mistake the vulgar gingle of a *jowl*, for the fashionable rattle of a gentleman's chariot. If it rains, stop obliquely in the gutter, and as far from the door as you decently can, slap down your whip on the roof of the coach with as loud a report as comes from the mouth of a six-pounder; alight and knock at the door as if the knocker slipped out of your fingers; open your coach, and let down your step with as much harmony, as if you were emptying a cart load of paving stones, follow your man into the hall and half way into the dinner parlour, dunning his honour all the while for an extra tenpenny for your expedition. If his pride or his passion gets the better of him, and he gives you a bang that knocks a parcel of your teeth down your throat, I pronounce you a lucky dog: your fortune is made in a crack. Prosecute the paltry rascal for an assault, tip the footman of the house share of a pot and he will be your witness, vociferate in the hall till the gentleman of the house sends you some silver to get rid of you; then mount your box, denouncing terrible vengeance, and drive off, roaring as loud as if every bone in your carcass was broke—"

It is not to be expected that a writer of this stamp will confine his whip to the beasts he is driving, and not give a lash *en passant*, to what ever lies in his way. Among others we find a severe cut at a body well known and much spoken of (though not always in the most lavish terms of approbation) in Dublin.

"Never demand your fare, my lads, from any of their worshippers, the police magistrates in Clarendon-street. All is not lost, let me tell you, that a friend gets, and an acquaintance a court may be often useful to a hackney coachman in adversity."

Another hint of the same nature deserves a little more consideration, as we are all more or less concerned in it, and it were well, if it were thought upon by those against whom it is levelled. It is well known that by an old rule in the Dublin col-

lege the gates are locked every night at a quarter after twelve precisely, after which hour none of the students who may have transgressed the proper time for retiring home, are permitted to enter until five the next morning, during which time, they are left to shift for themselves. It is needless to add that there are in so large a city, many convenient houses, where young men who have plenty of money, or in default of that, valuable articles of dress, may be accommodated with a night's lodging; that the reception they meet with is such as seldom fails to induce them to renew the visit, whatever aversion they may have conceived against such places, from former report, and that at such late hours persons are to be found whose sole employment is to allure young men thus circumstanced into such receptacles.

"At an advanced hour of the night, and long after common working hours, an industrious hackneyman may let lodgings to very considerable advantage. The first floor of a hackney-coach, though unfurnished, often proves very acceptable quarters, to small families that can find no better accommodation, and to idle college boys, who are very wisely locked out of their chambers by the monks of trinity, for the purpose of improving their morals."

It is worthy of remark that these monks of trinity, the Professors, or as they are styled in that seminary, the fellows of the college, not having the same regard to the improvement of their own morals, are admissible at all hours, this however is a privilege seldom taken advantage of, as most of them have wives and families in the city, where they reside, and leave the interior of the college to take care of itself.

There is one part of this pamphlet peculiarly exceptionable and meriting the strongest reprobation as it displays a licentiousness of the press, not only contrary to its true liberty but subversive of it, and which like all other political abuses of the same nature must tend to the destruction of that liberty of which it makes a bad use, we mean the custom of dragging before the public, private characters,

or even the private life of public characters, in which the public has no concern and therefore no right to inspect. This custom, we believe was first brought into vogue, by a certain ill-natured, though witty pamphlet, called "Familiar Epistles, &c." which was written for a local purpose in Dublin, but is now well known through all parts of the kingdom. We name it not now to deprecate the main intention, of the writer; this was good; the Dublin stage had fallen into a most contemptible state of insipidity, and it required the strongest, and most active remedies to rouse it from its lethargy. If therefore the stage is to be considered as one of the engines for improving the public manners, such an attempt to bring it into action is praise-worthy. Neither do we wish to depreciate its merit, which is now established by one of the strongest proofs, that of its being read and approved of by those who never saw the persons introduced into it, and are slightly, if at all acquainted with most of the circumstances alluded to; but we blame the introduction of private anecdote, as faulty in itself as an arbitrary exertion of power which no writer ought to exert. In the "Familiar Epistles" it was but slight and incidental, but being sanctioned by the merit and success of the other parts, it gave a handle to others, who possessed his spleen, without his abilities. They soon seized upon it, and by imitating the only part they were capable of imitating, gave their insipid productions a degree of temporary vogue, depending on the encouragement of the worst passions, that has excited a succession of writers of the same stamp. Every writer of honour, every reader of candour or feeling, or even common honesty, every man who is averse to have his little weaknesses or defects, or even personal deformities exposed, ought to set his face against such an outrage against the private rights of individuals. In the present publication this principle is professed in the title page, by the expression of "incidental allusions to several elevated characters." It is thrown out as a lure for purchasers, which proves that the evil has made some progress. Ye'

here it has not even the excuse of doing evil that good may come from it, of acting the part of an intellectual physician, by publishing accounts of the diseases of individuals for the public benefit, for when we look into the work itself for these elevated characters who are ushered in with such verbose pomp, nothing is to be found but a very frigid witticism on the length of *Ponsonby's nose*, and on the recorder of Dublin, who, we are told, "piques himself upon the peculiar beauty of his countenance."—In another part, indeed, we meet with Lady Asgill, and a person styled "the Major of all the Majors," by whom we suppose is meant Charles Henry Sirr, the thief-taker. They may perhaps be public characters, but if they are looked upon as *elevated* characters in Dublin, we can only say that the difference of one degree of latitude makes a very great change in the signification of a word.

We have dwelt at some length on an insignificant production; if indeed any production can be called by such a name, which may be the cause of much good or harm; a trifle such as this will fall into the hands of many whose ideas will unavoidably receive some bias from the perusal; and it is therefore our wish to have the press, the Irish press so immaculate that nothing can meet the eye of the meanest, the lowest of our countrymen, that may not have a tendency to improve their hearts. An inspection of penny ballads, would not be without its use. Q.

The Irish Chieftain and his Family.
By Theodora Melville, 4 vols. 12mo.
p.p. 763. London, 1809. Price, 20s.

THE Reader who forms the least expectations on opening these volumes, will be least disappointed on closing them.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

EXTRAORDINARY emergencies usually call forth extraordinary exertions; and in dangerous and difficult times the human character assumes a variety, boldness, and decision which fits it for encountering obstacles and meeting the crisis with effect. Examples of this are frequent in history; but we, in these days, have such demonstration of it as the page of history cannot furnish. A revolution of unexampled magnitude, and attended with stupendous consequences hastened place before our eyes; and a nation deemed incapable of great exertions, or of the perseverance necessary to crown meritorious efforts with success,

has, by a change of circumstances, become the most prominent object on the face of the globe.

Arbitrary power long continued, and formed into a regular system in France, seemed to affect the physical qualities of the people; and the notorious and avowed corruption pervading every department of the government, had a pernicious influence on their moral principle. This was an unnatural state of society, and the disorder having reached its height, a powerful reaction of the constitution burst asunder all the social relations, and expelled the evil rooted in the core. This is the natural tendency of despotism: in those

subjected to its baleful influence it first paralyses the wholesome energies implanted by nature, then poisens the source of all honourable sentiment and feeling, and having sufficiently degraded its victim, at length outraged humanity rebels and tardy vengeance recoils on the authors of so much evil.

Were the authors of the mischief only to suffer, we might be willing to leave things to their natural course; but in great political convulsions, the innocent being the more numerous class are generally in that proportion the greater sufferers, and their efforts at relief often serve only to aggravate and prolong their calamity. It becomes then the duty of every real friend of social order to rouse the attention of the community to what is interesting to all, to endeavour to fix society on a firm foundation, and see that it contributes more to individual happiness than that state of nature enjoyed by the wild uncultivated tribes of Africa and America. France ought to be an effectual warning to all governments, as it is an awful example to all bad ones. The revolution of 1688, in our own country was not half so impressive; that might be considered as the natural impatience of a people tolerably accustomed to the blessings of freedom, at seeing before their eyes the ignominious fetters of tyranny forged for their subjugation. A people used to controul their kings, might easily be supposed willing on an emergency to get rid of a bad one; but for a nation immersed in slavery, as the body of the French were, by whom the revolution was accomplished, for such a one to rise as if by inspiration, assert their rights and avenge their wrongs; this is a spectacle for statesmen to contemplate; this shows that the cord if stretched too tight will snap at last. The success of the French on the Continent has been less owing to the energy infused by the revolution, than to the folly of the Continental governments, but we need not say more of those who would hazard the safety and independence of their native land by clinging to abuses by which they thrive, and draining the heart's blood from an ill governed and discontented country. We may withdraw a while

from scenes of such infatuation and weakness, and without confining ourselves by local views, consider the path which a wise people would pursue under certain circumstances.

Suppose a nation long accustomed to much civil and political freedom, enjoying many privileges, some founded on immemorial usage; and others on written records agreed to by the different parties in the state, empowered for that purpose, and all these together forming what is called the constitution of the country. That this written and unwritten constitution is expressly allowed to be the birth-right of all, is held up to each individual as the most valuable inheritance, which he ought to esteem above all other enjoyments and the only safeguard and guarantee of them all. That it is committed in trust to a body of men to be managed for the behoof of the great mass of the people, by the free suffrage of whom the constitution supposes the former to be chosen. That the people are attached to this order of things, have made extraordinary sacrifices for its support, and would hazard their lives to defend it from foreign aggression.

Should a people so circumstanced begin at length to perceive that the body to whom the constitution is entrusted, and to whom is committed the charge of watching over their immediate interests, is not chosen as the constitution intends; is not their real representative, and does not regulate its conduct by the clearly expressed national opinion; that many flagrant abuses take place in the management of their affairs, which the constitution endeavoured to prevent; and that the constitution has not provided the only adequate remedy for these grievances, by prescribing *how* the representative body shall be made the true organ of the People's will. Should this knowledge become general in the nation, and especially from the recent discovery of certain untoward events, make them discontented with the present administration of the constitution, and urgently desirous that at least what is called the popular Branch of the constitutional Tree may be freed from the influence of the other orders and transferred to them

for their proper use and benefit.—In such a situation what should be the conduct of a wise government, even without any reference to external circumstances, or the present alarming state of the world? In such a country with a high sense of political liberty, and smarting under an extreme pressure of taxation, would it be prudent to make a general stand against “popular encroachment,” and crush by penal statutes that spirit of inquiry which now pervades the nation.

We think this is the fatal policy which has led to the almost total overthrow of the Continental powers; by contemning and opposing the voice of the people, some of them were absolutely destroyed, and by refusing to ameliorate the condition of their subjects, others have found them passive and insensible in the hour of danger. It cannot be so in the country we have contemplated; even should government be unwilling to yield up the undue influence it has acquired, the example of former times will intrude and make the voice of reason be heard; and conciliatory measures promptly pursued, will drown the voice of discontent and faction. It is not enough that the constitution of the government be beautiful in theory, it must be felt, must come to the mass of the people in a ‘tangible shape,’ in order to gain their affections, and be supported by them with energy. The people are wise enough now to know that government is a thing contrived for their use, and that whenever it lessens their comforts, curtails their privileges, or refuses minute attention to their complaints, it ceases to be legitimate, and loses all claim to their veneration and regard. As they are now awaking from a slumber that might have been fatal, let them publicly and freely make known the object they are in pursuit of, and the means by which they would desire to enjoy it; it is better that opinions be freely expressed, than silence imposed on a nation till it is urged into dangerous excess. It is time for these countries to assert their right to the enjoyment of the constitution in its purity; we believe it to be the best in the world, and better adapted to mankind, *as they are* than any other; but in the lapse of time, like all other human establishments,

it has contracted imperfections, which spoil its beauty, and impair its power to answer the purpose of its institution—the happiness of those embodied under its protection. A periodical renovation of it would seem necessary to recall men’s attention to first principles; and it might be well, if, after the revolution of each half century at most, some mode were adopted of giving it a solemn revision, corresponding with the importance of the object, by an extra-deputation of persons appointed for that particular purpose.

We conceive that the duty we owe society, calls upon us to turn the attention of our fellow-citizens to the crisis in which they are placed: the present times are fertile in great political changes: we stand in a comparatively enviable situation, and the form of our government is admirable; but reduced to practice—it wants the vigour of youth and the energy of virtue: it wants diffusion through all classes of the people; in order to insure *their* happiness, and render it stable as the soil they inhabit. Then, while time and opportunity still continues, as they value the blessings of freedom themselves, and would wish to transmit them unimpaired to their posterity, let them become the artificers of their own destiny: Let them consider the present eventful period till they acquire a character that shall rise superior to difficulties, and find security in its own resources; and by a steady perseverance in temperate measures, let them endeavour, either to force the interested part of the community to a seasonable acquiescence with the wishes of the whole; or where the letter of the constitution is silent, yet in strict conformity with its spirit, to devise means to correct and prevent the recurrence of abuses which destroy the public morals, and sap the foundations of national safety.

Since our last month’s notice, the public attention, as to foreign affairs, has been chiefly directed to the French and Austrian armies. These immense engines of human destruction are wielded by the contending Emperors with disproportioned power, and unequal skill; and this we fear it has not been attempted to equalize during the interval of actual hostility, by

extending advantages to the subjects of the weaker country, which would have secured their effectual assistance now, when become essentially necessary. Even when an unexpected check was given to the French arms—which, like the famous Bantry-bay expedition to our own country, was accomplished more by the elements than by valour or the wisdom of councils. We hear of no exultation, no attempt of the people to rise and help to expel their invaders; and in the countries already traversed by the victorious army, whenever the regular force is beaten, taken, or expelled, they seem so entirely subdued that the troops are drawn away, as if there were no apprehension of danger from them.

The three days' interruption that Bonaparte experienced at Vienna; and the breaking down of the bridge over the Danube, on the retreat of the Austrians was favourable to their cause. The Archduke Charles made use of the time from the 12th to the 20th of May, in collecting the scattered divisions of his army, and occupying a favourable position on the left bank. The French head-quarters at this time were at Ebersdorff, a town a few leagues to the south-east of Vienna, where the river is intersected by two islands, the larger, In der Loban, nearer to the left, or north bank. Here, having constructed three bridges over as many arms into which the river is divided by the islands, the French began to pass on the night of the 20th of May, and occupied two villages, Essling and Asperne, on the north bank. About noon the next day, the 21st, the Archduke, with 90,000 men and 200 pieces of cannon, according to the French accounts, attacked the enemy, consisting, by the Austrian bulletins, of 80,000 men, and a most obstinate engagement ensued, and continued, until night separated the combatants. The battle was renewed, with sanguinary violence on the morning of the 22d. The French and Austrians, each claim the superiority on these two days; and there may now appear a difficulty in deciding where victory would have remained; but an accident beyond the reach of human prudence or calculation, left the hard-earned fruits entirely with the Austrians. A sudden swelling of the Danube, which gene-

rally takes place later in the season, carried away two of the bridges which had been constructed with so much labour, and cut off the French from receiving any more supplies either of men or ammunition, from the right or south side, and leaving the army engaged with the Austrians only a communication with the island of In der Loban, by the bridge which had escaped. In this most critical situation, Bonaparte ordered his army to retreat and concentrate itself, and at night it passed over into the island of In der Loban, still having a communication with the left bank, by keeping possession of the Tete du Pont.

We may remark here on the exultation manifested at this check given to the French arms, and the weak conclusions drawn from it, as if Bonaparte were now deprived of the power to commit farther mischief. We might, indeed rejoice were the inordinate ambition of this man restrained, were the armies of the Emperor Francis able to repel the inroads of his legions, or were the prostrate dynasties of Europe at length roused from their degradation, and prepared to oppose his power, with the only effective arms, the arms of JUSTICE and FREEDOM. In this case the effusion of human blood, and the increase of human misery might be restrained, and society in general reap some advantage; but unless some of these consequences are likely to ensue, we need not exult, although we must feel pleased that the destruction of our ally is interrupted, and that there is a probability of some better terms being procured by him on that account. As to ourselves, fourteen millions of people surrounded by a better rampart than the Danube, need neither exult nor despond at the defeats or successes of Bonaparte; a good government, union and comfort at home would render us secure from him, were all the rest of Europe lying under his feet. We apprehend, however, that the conclusions drawn from Bonaparte's retreat across the Danube, and the unexpected success of the Archduke, are wholly unwarranted by these events. In the battles of the 21st and 22d, if the advantage had not been with the French, how could they afterwards have retreated so orderly, by a

single bridge, into the island of In der Loban? and had the Archduke beat them so completely as he represents in his bulletins, why did he not continue the action until their ammunition was expended, and while they were cut off from a supply, by a decisive effort, annihilate this army, which would undoubtedly have compelled Bonaparte to a precipitate retreat from the Austrian dominions? On these accounts, we conceive Bonaparte to be equally formidable as when he advanced to Vienna. His army has sustained considerable loss 1,100 killed, and 3,000 wounded by his own statement, and many superior officers, among whom are three Generals and Marshal Laanes (Duke of Montebello) who died a few days after the action of the 23d; but it is probable the loss of the Austrians is not inferior; and as the army of Italy formed a junction with him on the 26th of May, at Bruck, within two or three days' march of Vienna, and Bernadotte is advancing on the north of the Danube, with a large reinforcement, besides the numerous bodies of troops ordered from the Tyrol, which seems now perfectly tranquilized, we may shortly expect to hear of some of those immense operations which astonish the world after his apparent temporary suspension.

The Archduke John, who commanded the Austrians in Italy must have retired far from that country, although we are unacquainted with the details as the Italian army had advanced as far as Gratz in Carinthia, and to Bruck, on the road to Vienna; and the Duke of Ragusa (Marmora) was marching from Dalmatia, with his division to form a junction with it.

In Poland the Archduke Ferdinand, after the capture of Warsaw, proceeded along the Vistula, took Thorn, and was going on towards Dantzic; but we are informed that he has now commenced his retreat to Germany.

The Russian declaration of war against Austria, bears date Petersburg the 5th of May, and we hear of her troops advancing to the Austrian frontier; should Bonaparte's situation appear at all hazardous, we doubt not but all the means of this mighty empire would be employed for his support.

Of Turkey we know nothing: neither can the movements of that chaotic mass possess any interest compared with the present critical state of the other parts of Europe.

It is with some concern that we advert to the difficulties in which Sweden finds herself placed. The Emperor of Russia in respect to her, has occupied the ground we took for refusing to treat of peace with France in the early periods of the revolution. Instability of the government, social order, and revolutionary example, are profaned in *his* mouth, and made the infamous pretexts for refusing their proffered friendship, and for endeavouring, with his disproportioned force, to overwhelm that unfortunate country. Now is the time for the interposition of England: let her now send a portion of that fleet and army which are wasting their strength in Portugal, for an object which we must lose, to assist the Swedes in conquering peace, and defending that constitution and king, which they themselves have chosen.

In Portugal, Sir Arthur Wellesly, after the re-capture of Oporto, and defeating the rear of Soult's corps, followed up his success with all his characteristic rapidity; but after a severe fatiguing pursuit through a difficult country, he was obliged to return without having overtaken that officer. The French, we understand are now entirely out of Portugal: of their operations in Spain we know little with certainty, except that the province of Asturias was very unexpectedly attacked by them sometime ago, when they were not thought to be in force in that neighbourhood; Oviedo, the capital, taken, from whence Romana and the bishop with difficulty effected their escape; the latter having arrived in England; and the whole province seems to be now in possession of the French. It must give pleasure to the friends of liberty to learn, that there is now under the consideration of the Supreme Junta, at Seville, a *truly* patriotic proclamation to the Spanish people, and a plan for the formation of a National Constitution, for the most part on liberal principles, and providing for individual protection and an equal distribution of law and justice to the community, by a proper repre-

sentation of the people in the Cortes, or general estates of the kingdom. This, if carried into effect, may yet do some good; although we fear it is too late to revive the flame of patriotism, which, if ever really kindled, is, by injudicious measures, misfortunes, and disappointment, now nearly extinguished.

Our relations with America, instead of becoming more simple and defined, seem every day to be getting more perplexed and intricate. As soon as we are gratified by hearing that our minister in America had come to such an understanding, and made such arrangements with that government as promised a speedy termination to all our disputes, we are officially informed by our ministry at home that he had exceeded his powers, and acted in direct opposition to his instructions. What the consequence of this vacillation in our councils may be, we cannot tell, but we fear that the disgust and disappointment in America will be in proportion to the almost extravagant joy manifested by them at the supposed amicable termination of our differences.

We remember, before the unfortunate commencement of hostilities with France, in 1793, how anxious that people were to preserve peace with England, how highly they praised and esteemed Englishmen, and how their love for this country seemed really to have become a national feeling—arising probably from the recent change in their circumstances; and we all now know that the prevalence of evil councils have accomplished as complete a revolution in this respect, as ever took place in the sentiments and feelings of any people. We fervently hope that the present protracted negotiations with America may end differently; but the prevailing sentiments of administration and their unknown diplomatic abilities, give very considerable ground for apprehension.

ENGLAND.

However the bloody contests on the Continent may terminate, whether the old governments have yet so much of the spirit of vitality remaining, as to survive the present crisis, or whether they succumb to the rising fortunes of the new dynasty, which the true lovers of liberty cannot but wish to fall in its turn ere long, to

make room for a better order of things than the present military despotism; we have still more important objects, and of much nearer interest to us, to engage our attention in our domestic struggles, to settle our liberties on a securer basis.

During the dynasty of the Stuarts, prerogative was unblushingly avowed. James the first laid the foundation for the misfortunes of his family, in his favourite doctrine of "the right divine of kings to govern wrong." His son Charles, the first, was a proficient in this school, and to the favourite system of king-craft added the vice of hypocrisy. Charles the second uninstructed by misfortunes, was, after his restoration, profligate in private life, and tyrannical in his maxims and manner of government, and his ill-fated successor, the imbecile James, justly forfeited his crown by his adherence to the doctrines and practice of the family.

In succeeding reigns prerogative gradually gave place to the insinuating vices of corruption, till at length Sir Robert Walpole digested this new plan of governing into a system, and with the effrontery of a vicious heart, avowed, "that every man had his price." We hesitate not to declare that this assertion is untrue, and a libel against human nature, and yet we must acknowledge with sorrow, that too many have, as far as regarded themselves, justified the truth of this misanthropic maxim. Corruption is the enemy whom we have to encounter, whose maturity of years and strength has become truly formidable, and whose inroads on the constitution, during the last forty or fifty years, have been great and alarming.

It is consolatory, however, to the friends of peace and stability, to find that a considerable degree of public spirit is lately revived in England; for the *Constitution improved*, affords the best security against foreign enemies, as well as against the no less dangerous enemies, the abettors of corruption at home, and gives the most secure basis for permanent tranquillity. The force of popular feeling has an evident effect on the house of commons, and public censure to a certain degree exerts a salutary corrective influence within their walls. It must be allowed that some assert corruption is necessary to the existence

of government in whatever hands, and tells us " 'tis our charter;" Percival concedes by inches, and exerts all his sophistry and special pleading to fritter away, and undo his concessions; yet still if we view the progress of affairs during the present session, the influence of the people has considerably increased. At the commencement of the session, the haughty language of defiance and disdain was huried against the intrepid Wardle, and the small band of reformers who supported him. Instructed by their defeat, the ministry became more cautious, and avoided meeting with any more tangible instances of corruption: they resisted general inquiry, and loudly proclaimed their innocence; but when afterwards challenged to particular instances in the persons of some of the chief members of administration, they shrunk back and wished for no more examinations at the bar. They have assumed a lower tone, but show no disposition to remove the radical existence of evil, of which they cannot deny the existence.

In London and Edinburgh the friends to the old system have celebrated the birth-day of Pitt, by public dinners. This may be considered as a plan to counteract the public meetings in favour of reform, and as a rallying point for the scattered forces of ministers and their expectants. Placemen and pensioners filled the tables, and with the enthusiasm of three times three, drank success to the system, whence they had their gains; but the people, groaning under the weight of taxation, had no inducements to sympathize in their mirth. They attempted to revive the old watch-words against liberty, and with entire consistency adopted the ominous name of Pitt as their signal. Yet who that dispassionately considers the present state of Europe, the enormous weight of taxation, and the abridgement of liberty in the British isles, all justly referable to his counsels, or the counsels of those who secretly and behind the curtain, directed him, can wish for a continuation of that system, which has in its effects proved so fatal, and to which in his keen sensations of regret in the eminent failure of it, he himself probably tell a victim?

In the struggle between reform

and corruption, if the people had directed their attention exclusively against the present ministry, it is probable they must have retired from place; and their opponents appeared at one time to anticipate their triumph: but now according to the whining speech of Mr. Tierney, they are displeased at the want of confidence justly shown towards them. The resolutions from Bristol, for which see the Official Documents, page 478, boldly declare that the co-operation of men interested in the continuance of corruption is neither looked for nor desired. Among the opposition, not a few enjoy sinecure places, and they all probably wish again to taste the sweets of office, without any abridgement of the means of gratifying their craving after the emoluments of place. To neither of the old parties can the people look with confidence for the removal of abuses.

Mr. Whitbread's motion to pledge parliament to take up early in the next session, the consideration of limiting the number of placemen, and to exclude pensioners from sitting in the house of commons, as also a motion to abridge the number of sinecures, were both negatived.

The bill introduced by Mr. Curwen has passed through the house of commons. At its first introduction it did not appear to possess sufficient strength or energy to accomplish its title, to prevent the sale of seats in parliament; but its inefficacy has been still further increased by the insidious conduct of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has succeeded to mould it to his own views; and still farther than in the original bill, to give a monopoly of boroughs to the treasury. He has contrived to guard against conviction, by requiring that a place should be expressly given, for the purpose of procuring a vote, so that no one who is not a bungler, or who is not clumsy-fingered in his practice of bribing, is in danger of suffering under the penalties of this accommodating and latitudinarian bill. So long as offices are, by connivance, permitted to be given instead of money, the evil intended to be prevented by the original bill, must be increased, because a man who purchases his seat with his own money may be independent, while the retainers of the treasury must

necessarily have an *incubus* operating on them, so as to injure their independence. The oath to be taken by the *elected* against having practised bribery is also removed, though while the *elector* is forced to swear, it would be difficult to show why, a fortiori, the elected should be exempted from the exculpation of an oath against bribery. Oaths, however, are easily evaded, and they seldom operate to check villiany. Heavy penalties easily recoverable, would have probably produced the most effectual check against the practice of purchasing seats, which the speaker of the house of commons, in an energetic speech, pronounced to be a violation of the constitution. But to stop the trade of corruption, or to restore the constitution, is seldom the aim of men hackneyed in the artifices of governing.

Lord Folkstone, with great propriety, moved that the title of the bill should be, "A bill for the more effectually preventing the sale of seats in parliament for money, and for promoting the monopoly thereof to the treasury, by means of patronage." But although his motion was negatived, yet during the progress of the bill through the house of lords, where it finally passed, it was supported by the lords in administration, and the Earl of Liverpool especially defended it, because it was a measure not connected with the reform of parliament.

Sir Francis Burdett, after a long speech, in which he showed that the present system of rotten boroughs, was equally prejudicial to the prerogative of the king, and the rights of the people, and only advantageous to a small portion of the aristocracy, the borough-mongers, to prevent any longer a misrepresentation of his opinions on the subject, proceeded to detail his plan, for a more equal representation of the people, and shortening the duration of parliaments, and concluded with moving a resolution, that the house would early in next session proceed to consider the state of the representation. This reasonable proposal was supported by the small minority of 15, among whom we only recognize one Irishman, Mr. Hutchinson.

In taking a view of the parliamentary proceedings of this month, we cannot omit to notice the fate of a

bill introduced by Lord Erskine to prevent cruelty to animals. It passed through the house of Lords, and was finally rejected before the third reading in the commons. It was acknowledged by the supporters of the bill to be the commencement of a new era in legislation, but the idea was scouted by the class of obscurants, or bedarkners, and anti-reformists. Animals have their rights, and as yet, cruelty towards them is only punished from a reference to the interest of the owners, without consideration of the wanton cruelties inflicted on them through inhumanity and caprice. There was a consistency, however, in the opposition of the enemies of reform, to this *measure of improvement*. Windham who some years ago, successfully opposed a bill to prevent the barbarous and brutalizing practice of bull-baiting, lest it should diminish the courage (he should have more appropriately termed it ferocity) of the English, was steady to his principles on this occasion, and moved that the third reading of the bill should be deferred for three months. Such is the progress of civilization in the first decennium of the 19th century.

Approaching now to the close of the parliamentary campaign, we must again advert to the respectable champion against corruption, G. Lloyd Wardle, to whose exertions, accompanied with so much coolness and moderation we are so highly indebted, and who by his unveiling the atrocities connected with the war department, gave the first impetus to the desire for reform. It is curious to hear with what calumnies he is assailed by the friends of corruption: and if unblushing impudence were not so common as not to excite surprise, it would be not without astonishment, that we hear the advocates for a vigour beyond the law, and even men who themselves were among the foremost in committing acts of outrage, bring forward an accusation against him for his conduct in Ireland, when with his regiment, the Ancient Britons, in the memorable years of 1797 and 1798. It is not our intention to be the apologists for their outrages, and if any of his individual acts were improper, we shall not attempt to palliate them; though for the acts com-

mitted by his troop under the authority of magistrates, even though in his presence, we find some excuse from the temper of the times, and his liability to be led astray by misrepresentation, of a country with which he was unacquainted, and his being in a situation, in which he was particularly exposed to the imbibing of prejudices. We have heard no well authenticated instance of any act of cruelty committed by him, but even if such should be substantiated, we should grieve at the fallible nature of man, but should not be disposed on that account to reject him, or his present services; nor do we ask the aid of men, who were themselves actors in similar tragedies, to be the first to throw blame on him, who, even if formerly led astray in the mistaken fervor of youthful zeal is now in his riper years, atoning for the errors of his youth. We are therefore willingly inclined to accept his present well-directed endeavours. Being frequently urged by his opponents, he at length came forward with his plan for saving many millions to the state; if the public purse were well taken care of by the house of commons, who, if truly the representatives of the people, and sympathizing with them, would be the watchful guardians of it. In the course of his speech he pointed out many abuses in the different departments, and concluded with motions for papers further to elucidate his assertions.* Ministers promised to

* An Estimate of the Savings in the National Expenditure, as stated by Mr. Wardle, on his motion for Papers, in the House of Commons:

Army	6,182,000
Management of Revenue	1,440,000
Commissioners of Ac- counts and Inquiry }	75,000
Pensions.....	300,000
Colonies.....	500,000
Bounties.....	150,000
Allowances on Debt.....	210,000
Military Expenditure of }	2,000,000
Ireland.....	

£10,857,000

The savings in the Naval department would fully make the total of *Eleven Millions!* and cover any errors in rating the savings in the other departments too high.

bring forward such accounts as he wanted, as far they could at the beginning of the next session, and if they were not satisfactory, it was understood he might then move for further returns. We cherish the hope that he will overcome all opposition to his laudable exertions in detecting abuses, and that next session we shall behold him renewing his labours with unabated ardour, cheered by the approbation of the thinking and virtuous part of the community.

According to a resolution of the house of Commons, the amount of the national debt of Great Britain is stated to be 567 millions!

On the 21st, parliament was prorogued by commission. The most prominent part of the speech as connected with our domestic politics, is an exhortation, "to inculcate both by instruction and example, a spirit of attachment to the established laws, and the happy constitution of these countries."

From the manner of mentioning the subject, we may perceive the dread which ministers entertain of reform. The watch-word of the ministerial party, by which they hope to defeat all attempts at renovation, is the constitution. They seek to persuade that all the abuses which have been already detected, and the thousand which still remain behind, are integral and necessary parts of the constitution, and that the constitution will be destroyed, if its defects are removed.

The session is now closed, it will be a memorable one in the annals of the united empire.

Whether the important and unexpected events which have taken place, in consequence of the investigation into abuses, will prove the commencement of an era of reform, and consequent happiness; whether the popular fervour will again subside into apathy, or what consequences may be the result, remain inscrutable to human ken. Let the termination be as it may, the present crisis will be important in history. The people, in a more general way than they have for several preceding years, demand reform. The two houses of parliament, and the active agents of government, do not appear

to participate in this feeling, further than as they in a few instances admitted the power of popular opinion, and gave way, or appeared to give way, to its influence.

But the people in many places are aroused; even now, while this Retrospect is penning, the inhabitants of the county of Essex are on the eve of meeting to vindicate their rights, to assemble and deliberate on public events, as after two applications the sheriff had refused to call a meeting of that county. It remains to be seen whether during the present recess of parliament, the popular opinion will be decidedly and unequivocally expressed in favour of reform. Much will undoubtedly be done to lull the people into a state of indifference, but if they do express their sentiments in favour of reform, with firmness and moderation, we think ministers will concede; and parliament in the next session may probably recognize the just rights of the people to a correction of abuses. Whatever may be attempted by sap, the period to revive the system of terror we trust will not be again attempted. Our present cabinet do not appear to possess the destructive energies of a Pitt.

SCOTLAND.

In our last month's Retrospect we alluded to the rising spirit of our Scottish neighbours. For this month our information from that quarter is scanty.

At the celebration of Mr. Pitt's birth-day at Edinburgh, Lord Melville made a speech, in which after talking of the great landmarks of the constitution, and against reformers, he expressed his determination to act in case attempts should be made to do away abuses or according to his phrase, to alter old established usages, to follow the practice of his friend whose memory they were met to celebrate. But we ask is peculation one "of the established usages of the constitution," or one of "those blessings, which these countries afford to all descriptions of men." In truth the selfish interests of PECULATORS and the interests of the nation are widely different. We have not heard whether he noted Alexander Trotter of peculating memory attended to support his noble patron and partner on this occasion.

It is worthy of notice that the Edinburgh Reviewers in their last number, are entirely silent on the subject of reform, or the removal of abuses, though the recent investigation in parliament on the Duke of York's business, and other instances of corruption gave so good an opportunity of explaining their sentiments on these subjects.—They have on several instances lately professed manly and virtuous sentiments: but this late omission gives room to suspect that their patriotism is guided by the politics of the old opposition party in parliament: and this party have on the late occasions displayed no energy in detecting abuses. In an article on the biography of those who figured in the French revolution, the Reviewers discover their aristocratic prejudices, and seek to inspire a dread of reform. But it is not fair to charge the excesses of the French to this cause, solely, or principally? The despotism of their former government, and the coalition of princes against their newly regenerated liberty assisted to prepare the crisis of delirium. The skilful physician examines the predisposing causes which produce the deleterious effects of a widespread epidemic. The French Revolution has failed hitherto to produce the good effects which the friends of liberty expected from it, but it is not a legitimate conclusion that all attempts to procure reform will end in a similar disappointment.

IRELAND.

As an examination into the grievance of tithes is a measure connected with the best interests of our country, we sincerely regret that Mr. Parnell's motion, for an address to appoint commissioners to inquire into this subject, was negatived. It was a temperate manner of proceeding, which left time for further consideration. We fear it is intended to afford no relief in this case, and if so, it was consistent to make no inquiry.

The Commissioners for inquiring into the state of Education in Ireland, have made a report to Parliament in this session. It appears to contain much important matter. We hope shortly to present our readers with a full detail of its contents.

Our Irish finance minister has been

again left in a minority, on a clause in the Irish Revenue regulation bill, which exempted officers from actions for taking bribes from distillers, previous to 1808. The introduction of such a clause was disgraceful to the officers who needed such an amnesty, and to their superiors who so long permitted such conduct to pass unnoticed. Now that the nation is a little aroused to look into abuses, a plea is set up, that there should be no examination of the past. As well might there be a bill introduced to prevent criminal prosecutions against persons guilty of picking pockets prior to 1808. The clause was evidence of criminality against the actors in such scenes, whether as principals or accessories; but members of boards might be restrained from inquiry into abuses of inferior officers, by a consciousness of wanting that indulgence which they showed to others. Great mismanagement exists in the financial department. Ministers, as long as they could, liked to lay on fresh taxes, because they had thus the means of extending their influence through the country, by the appointment of additional collectors. Evasions were practised, and the actual receipts into the treasury fell far short of what might have been the produce of the taxes well managed. It would be for the interest of the country to have fewer taxes, but these taxes to be fairly and impartially levied. He who occasions a defalcation in the revenue, whether an officer, or the subject liable to pay the duty, is not so much defrauding the treasury, as injuring his neighbour; for if taxes fall short, the deficiency will be made up by fresh articles of taxation, and thus the burden is unequally thrown on the conscientious.

In the exposition brought forward by Mr. Wardle, of the abuses in the management of the finances of the empire, the manner of collecting the revenue in Ireland is eminently conspicuous, and justifies the claim to the character to which our poor country has long been entitled, as *the land of jobbing*. Expensive as the collection of the revenue is in Great Britain, if the expense in Ireland were reduced to the same standard, the saving would be very considerable; but jobbing in

the supreme degree has for many years distinguished our Irish boards.

The cost of collecting the Irish Revenue is 11½ per cent., while the English costs 4½. The difference is enormous; after making every allowance for the additional expense of collecting a smaller sum, in which case the rate per cent is necessarily higher, but not in such disproportions.

Our countryman, Henry Parnell, in his speech on this occasion, pointed out the enormity of the charges on collection in Ireland, and stated, that an annual saving might be made of 388,000*l*.

In this view of politics we sometimes may be allowed to give it a prospective cast, and anticipate approaching events likely shortly to occur. We now venture to make some remarks on the processions which usually take place on the 12th of next month, and call upon the liberal of the Protestant part of the community, to consider the hurtful tendency of such processions. They certainly irritate the most numerous portion of our population, without producing the smallest salutary effect. They promote disunion, and weaken our strength. Last year, in the town of Mountrath, in the Queen's county, some distressing events were the consequences of this injudicious pageantry. The houses of several of the Catholics were attacked, and their windows broken. The priest of the town was compelled to fly, and expose himself to injury in his health, by wading across a river. He was previously in a state of ill health, and he died shortly after. At the ensuing assizes, a man was tried for breaking the windows, and found guilty. The judge sentenced him to imprisonment, with some pointed observations on the absurdity of his laying claim to loyalty, while he was violating the laws. Others were acquitted, and some of the witnesses were charged with being guilty of perjury, for the sake of gratifying revenge. Thus criminations and recriminations, much ill blood and bickering probably with errors on both sides, resulted from this ill-judged observance of a day, and of an event, the commemoration of which, now, after the lapse of considerably more

than a century, might be suffered to fall into oblivion.

If we try this mode of irritation practised on our neighbours, by the rule of doing unto others as we wish others should do to us, it will not stand the test of examination. No one would like to have the triumph of a procession in opposition to his peculiar opinions, annually paraded before his view. The practise has a strong tendency to stir up the angry passions; and so far from being the test of the truth of Protestantism, or a discriminating badge of loyalty, is only the signal of disunion among neighbours. Sincerely attached to the peace and welfare of our country, we reprobate the practice, and most heartily do we wish to allay animosities, and heal the breaches of preceding generations.—We would by every means in our power endeavour to cherish a spirit of wise conciliation and concession, which would have a tendency to prevent the horrors which may attend a continuance of a system of mutual irritation and hostility. Ireland will never be a happy country so long as ancient animosities are kept alive in the breasts of the rival parties, which have so long distracted our unhappy country, paralyzed her energies, and rendered her sons, by a mistaken policy, hostile to each other.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

THE SUPREME GOVERNING JUNTA,
TO THE SPANISH NATION.

IT is three ages, Spaniards, since the salutary laws on which the nation founded its defence against the attempts of tyranny, have been destroyed.—Our fathers did not know how to preserve the precious deposit of liberty, which their fathers had bequeathed them, and although all the provinces of Spain successively struggled to defend it, our evil stars which now began to pursue us, have rendered useless those generous efforts.—After having silenced reason and justice, the laws from that time forward have been nothing else than an expression, more or less tyrannical, or more or less beneficent of a particular will.—Providence, as if to punish the loss of that beautiful prerogative

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of freemen, has sentenced us to be unhappy, and paralyzed our valour; arrested the progress of our understanding; protracted civilization, and after having blended and exhausted the fountains of prosperity, we have come to that condition, that an insolent tyrant has formed a project of subduing under his yoke the greatest nation of the globe, without reckoning upon its will, and despising its resistance.—In vain have there been some instances within these last three ages of disasters, in which the best directed will of the princes has attempted to remedy this, or the other plagues of the state.—In vain the increased illustration of Europe has lately inspired our statesmen with projects of reform both useful and necessary.—Buildings cannot be erected upon sands, and without fundamental and constituted laws to defend the good already done, and to prevent the evil which is intended to be done, it is useless for the philosopher in his study, and the public man in the theatre of business, to exert himself for the good of the people. The most useful meditations, the best combined projects, are either not put in execution, or if they should be, they immediately fall to the ground.—In the moment of a happy inspiration, succeeds another of an unfortunate one—to the spirit of economy and order, a spirit of prodigality and rapine—to a prudent and mild minister, an avaricious and mad favourite—to the moderation of a pacific monarch, the rage of an inhuman conqueror—and thus, without principles, without an established and fixed system, to which public measures and dispositions can be affixed, the ship of the state floats without her sails, without a helm or direction, until, as has happened to the Spanish monarchy, it is dashed to pieces on some rock by the hurricane of tyranny.—The evils which are derived from so vicious a beginning cannot be calculated, when they are accumulated in such a manner, that nothing less than a revolution can destroy them.—The Junta itself, in the midst of the power which you have placed in its hands; a power which makes them tremble on account of its unlimited extension; frequently

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meets in those ancient vices, insuperable difficulties in the execution of its wishes.—If the disorders of the government in the last twenty years had been less, believe, Spaniards, that your evils at this moment would not be so great—believe, that our enemies would not enjoy the advantages they obtained, not over the zeal and prudence of your government, nor over the valour and constancy which every moment are greater in you, but over the ruinous and miserable state to which the many years of arbitrary government which have been passing over us, has brought us to.—Thus it is, that when the Supreme Junta took upon itself the supreme authority, it did not deem itself less called upon to defend you from the enemy, than to procure and establish your interior felicity on a solid basis. It announced this solemnly to you from the beginning, and as solemnly obliged itself, in the face of the world, to the performance of this sacred duty.—The events of the war prevented at that time the commencing of the grand work, to which it is now going to put its hand, and the unexpected commotions which have succeeded one after another, seemed to require the suspension of any other object and to wait for more serene and tranquil times.—But, the Junta never lost sight of this grand thought; the same chain of evils with which fortune, when roused, delights in proving our constancy, is that which precipitates its execution.—How otherwise can be recompensed those floods of blood which run through every corner of the peninsula!—those sacrifices which at every instant the Spanish loyalty presents, without being over-fatigued by them; that moral resistance as universal as it is sublime, which disconcerts and renders desperate our enemies, even in the midst of their victories. He must have a breast of brass, who, to a people that so magnanimously resisted so cruel a calamity, should not point out to him immediately a crown of happiness, which awaits him as a recompense for his heroic fatigues.—When this dreadful contest is concluded, no less beautiful for our people, when persecuted by misfortune, than when crowned by victory, the Spaniard shall say

to himself, with that full pride with which his situation ought to inspire him, “My fathers have left me for an inheritance, slavery and misery; I leave to my descendants liberty and glory.” This sentiment of future happiness, which by reflection in some, and by instinct in all, animates you at present, Spaniards, is the same which made you abhor the former tyranny, which has reduced you to the deplorable state in which you see yourselves; the same which filled you with enthusiasm and with hope when you should be able to destroy it, and raise to the throne that innocent prince, who most sincerely wished to make you happy; the same which gave you valour and boldness to declare war against the most powerful nation, without armies and without resources; the same, in a word, that inspired you with invincible horror against that tyrant who has thrown upon you all the plagues of misfortune.—Know then, that this institution of happiness shall not be defrauded of its hopes. Let us take from our detractors every pretext for calumniating us; they say that we are fighting incessantly to defend our ancient abuses, and the inveterate and enormous vices of our corrupted administration. But let them know, from this moment, that your battles, although for independence, are also for the felicity of your country.—Let them know that you do not wish to depend henceforward on the uncertain will, or the variable temperament of one man only; that you do not wish to continue to be the play-thing of a court without justice, under the controul of an insolent favourite, or of a capricious woman; and that on the renewal of the august edifice of your ancient laws, you wish to place an eternal barrier between the death bearing despotism of your sacred rights. This barrier, Spaniards, consists in a good constitution, to aid and support the operations of the monarch, when they are just, and to restrain them when he follows evil counsels.

Without a constitution, all Reform is precarious, all prosperity uncertain; without it, the people are no more than flocks of slaves, put in motion at the order of a will, frequently unjust, and always unrestrained; without it, the forces of the entire society,

intended to procure the greatest advantages for all its members, are employed exclusively to satisfy the ambition, or satiate the phrenzy of a few, and perhaps of only one. It is absolutely necessary that you should have a constitution, by which a Reform of all the branches which are to contribute to your prosperity, are solidly secured; from whence the basis and principles of a sociable organization, worthy of men like you, may be derived. This constitution, Spaniards, ought to be the principal effect of your toils, a comfort for the desolation you have suffered, the reward of your labour, and the hopes of your victories. It certainly will not exhibit the infamous characters which are contained in the infamous code published by Napoleon at Bayonne, and framed long before in the deposite of his intrigues. With it they wanted to legitimate the most monstrous usurpation, known in the annals of the world. With ours, it is intended to secure the public prosperity of the state, and the particular one of the citizens, performing *bona fide*, what all the nation wishes. In that there was not time to deliberate, nor liberty to resist, nor powers to establish. In ours, the actual Representatives of the nation will excite wise men to expose freely what they think, they will call them to examine, and discuss the same political truths, and the best form of its application; and the work of their knowledge, their zeal, and their experience, shall be presented before the free sanction of the nation, solemnly assembled in Cortes. The insidious forms of the constitution of Bayonne are not sufficient to disguise the legalized despotism that appears in every part of it. In the Spanish constitution, the Public Will, lawfully and sufficiently expressed, shall be the law; government limiting its functions, within the terms which nature has pointed out in the political order. The consequences of the one, worthy in every respect of the fountain of iniquity from whence they spring, have been the plunder, the perdition, the ruin, and the deplorable desolation of the men and of the people, for whose felicity it was said to be intended. The other, founded on the basis of

virtue, and purchased at the expense of the most glorious efforts of patriotism, will have for its undeniable results, the liberty, and lasting happiness of the Spanish nation. The Supreme Junta has taken the rudder of the Monarchy, in the midst of the storm, and will only keep it, whilst danger and uncertainty exist, contributing by these direct and principal ways to cast this grand anchor, which so materially contributes to save the country from danger, in doing which it believes, that it fills one of its most religious obligations.

This should not be less glorious in the eyes of the nation, and of its political interests, than the extirpation of its enemies, and the triumph of the Spanish arms; and when the day comes, that it shall lay down the authority now invested in them into the hands of that government, which the constitution shall appoint, it will be for them the most glorious day of their political existence. Then they will think themselves rewarded for their watchfulness, their cares, and the dangers to which they are subject, by exercising a power to which they were not elevated by ambition, nor called by intrigue, but by the unanimous and determined vote of the provinces of the kingdom, that have sworn to be independent of all foreign dominion, and within themselves free and happy. Such have been the considerations the Supreme Junta had in view, in agreeing to the following decree:

ROYAL DECREE.

The Supreme Governing Power of the kingdom, considering it to be its primary obligation to free the country from the evils which have until now afflicted it; all which have been occasioned by the arbitrary laws to which it has been subject; pursuing the just and mild intentions of our very beloved king Ferdinand the 7th. who was desirous to re-constitute the Monarchy, re-establishing in it the National Representation of its ancient Cortes, desirous that the nation should take before the eyes of Europe and of the Universe, the noble and strong acts of a people worthily and legally constituted, desirous that this great work should be performed, which the

circumstances command, and the heroic sacrifices of the people require, anxious that it should approach to that degree of perfection which men are allowed to obtain, when they proceed with good faith, and with a desire of doing right, has decreed as follows:

1st. All wise Spaniards who have meditated on projects of Reform with respect to the constitution of the kingdom in general, as well as on the particular branches of public administration, are invited by the Junta to communicate their ideas with full liberty, and as they may judge may answer best for the good of their country.

2d. Those writings shall be sent to the Junta through the Secretary's office, within the term of two months from the date of this decree, and the authors will subscribe their names, or a mark by which they may be known in proper time.

3d. These Writings after being examined in a summary way, the writers of those which are found to be really useful by the observations, or by the knowledge they contain, shall be called upon, in order to take a part in the commissions of *Reform*, which shall be immediately created.

4th. These Commissions shall be presided each by a member of the Junta, and in them will be examined and prepared the works which are to be presented for approbation.

5th. The projects approved of by the Junta shall be presented to the National Sanction, and from it will receive the character, the authority, and the force of law.

6th. The Junta does not anticipate its judgment, to prepossess the public opinion with respect to these projects: it only believes that it ought to announce from this moment certain principles, upon which the wish and desire of the nation has irrevocably resolved, and from which nothing that can be written or discussed on the subject of Reform, can alter. Those principles are reduced to the following:

The Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Religion, is the only Religion of the State.—The Constitution of Spain is to be a monarchy, hereditary in Fer-

dinand the 7th, his descendants, and those called by the Law to succeed them.—The nation is to be governed henceforward by the Laws freely deliberated, and administered—there shall be a *National Cortes*, in the manner and form which may be established, taking into consideration the difference and alterations which have taken place since the time when they were lawfully held.—Our *American and other colonies* shall be the same as the Metropolis in all *Rights and Constitutional Prerogatives*. The reform which our legal codes, administration, and recovery of public rents, and every thing belonging to the direction of commerce, agriculture, arts, education, as well national, marine, and warlike are to undergo, shall be only and exclusively directed to obtain the greatest ease, and the better illustration of the Spanish people, so horribly teased until now.

7. The nation which shall be legally and solemnly constituted from On that day, the *General Cortes* of the Spanish monarchy, after being so long neglected, shall meet together for the first time.

BRITISH.

AT A MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF BRISTOL,
Convened at the Guildhall, the 26th of
May 1809.

WILLIAM COATES, esq. in the Chair.

It was Resolved, 1st. That at this momentous period, when the people are testifying the high sense they entertain of their superior rights as Britons, by the sacrifices they daily make of many of the comforts, if not of the necessities of life, for the maintenance and defence of the State, they have an undoubted right to insist that those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs, should at least abstain from undisguised prodigality and notorious corruption.

2. That Gwylliam Lloyd Wardle, esq. in his parliamentary exertions respecting the conduct of His Royal Highness the late Commander in Chief, displayed that zealous vigilance for the public welfare, that clear discernment, that pure disinterestedness, that inextinguishable ardour, and that unshaken constancy, which characterise the true patriot. That he has thereby justly acquired the admiration and gratitude of every uncorrupted member of the community, and he is requested to accept this heartfelt acknowledgement from the Citizens of Bristol now assembled.

That our thanks are due to Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. for the consistency of his conduct in seconding Mr. Wardle's motion for inquiry; to Lord Folkestone for his early and steady support of the measure; to Mr. Whitbread and Sir Samuel Romilly, for their able exertions during its progress; and to General Ferguson, Lord Archibald Hamilton, Mr. Madocks, and such other members of the house of commons, as by their virtuous co-operation proved themselves to be the actual representatives of the people.

4th. That during the late inquiry, we observed with the deepest regret, that in an assembly of persons styling themselves the representatives of the people, the influence of public opinion was unblushingly condemned, and its legitimacy openly denied; but we triumph in the reflection, that the authority which his majesty's ministers dared to revile, they have found themselves compelled to obey.

5th. That we consider the late happy detection of Lord Castlereagh in his foul attempt on the constitution, as a pledge on the part of the virtuous representatives of the people, that they will not slumber at their posts until our formidable enemy, corruption, be completely subdued.

6th. That we look with confidence to a speedy and effectual reform of the commons house of parliament, as the only means of rooting out corruption; and in effecting reform, we earnestly deprecate the insidious interference of those who are themselves profiting by the continuance of state abuses and reversionary sinecures.

7th. That we seek no other reform than such as shall insure to us the restoration of that free and glorious constitution which our forefathers so bravely acquired; which they again and again so manfully asserted, and which they so religiously transmitted to their posterity as their best, their inalienable birthright.

8th. That our thanks are due to Mr. John Winter, jun. and the other independent citizens at whose instance this meeting was convened.

9th. That copies of these resolutions be subscribed by the chairman in the name of the meeting, and be transmitted by him to Mr. Wardle, Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Folkestone, Sir S. Romilly, Mr. Whitbread, General Ferguson, Lord A. Hamilton, and Mr. Madocks.

10th. That our acknowledgements are due to Mr. Matthew Mills Coates, for the Resolutions this day adopted, and for his zealous and able exertions on the present occasion.

11th. That the proceedings of this day be inserted in all the Bristol Newspapers, the Morning Chronicle, the Star, and the Globe.

W. COATES, Chairman.

The thanks of the meeting were then voted to the chairman, for his able and impartial conduct.

MR. ERSKINE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Copy of a Dispatch from Mr. Secretary Canning to the Hon. D. M. Erskine, Dated Foreign Office, 23d January, 1809.

SIR.—If there really exist in those individuals who are to have a leading share in the new administration of the United States, that disposition to come to a complete and cordial understanding with Great Britain, of which you have received from them such positive assurances; in meeting that disposition it would be useless and unprofitable to recur to a recapitulation of the causes from which the differences between the two Governments have arisen, or of the arguments already so often repeated in support of that system of retaliation to which his Majesty has unwillingly had recourse.—That system his Majesty must unquestionably continue to maintain, unless the object of it can be otherwise accomplished. But after the profession on the part of so many of the leading Members of the Government of the United States, of a sincere desire to contribute to that object in a manner which should render the continuance of the system adopted by the British Government unnecessary, it is thought right that a fair opportunity should be offered to the American Government to explain its meaning, and give proof of its sincerity. The extension of the interdiction of the American harbours to the ships of war of France as well as of Great Britain, is, as stated in my former dispatch, an acceptable symptom of the system of impartiality towards both Belligerents; the first that has been publicly manifested by the American Government. The like extension of the Non-importation Act to other Belligerents is equally proper in this view. These measures remove those preliminary objections, which must otherwise have precluded any useful or amicable discussion. In this state of things, is it possible for Great Britain to entertain propositions, which while such manifest partiality was shown to her enemies, were not consistent either with her dignity or her interests.

From the report of your conversation with Mr. Madison, Mr. Gallatin, and Mr. Smith, it appears.—1st, That the American Government is prepared, in the event of his Majesty's consenting to withdraw the

Orders in Council of January and November 1807, to withdraw contemporaneously on its part the interdiction of its harbours to ships of war, and all Non-Intercourse and Non-Importation Acts, so far as respects Great Britain, leaving them in force with respect to France, and the Powers which adopt or act under her Decrees.—2dly, (What is of the utmost importance, as precluding a new source of misunderstanding, which might arise after the adjustment of the other questions) that America is willing to renounce, during the present war, the pretension of carrying on, in time of war, all trade with the enemy's colonies, from which she was excluded during peace.—3dly, Great Britain, for the purpose of securing the operation of the embargo, and of the *bona fide* intention of America to prevent her citizens from trading with France, and the powers adopting and acting under the French Decrees, is considered as being at liberty to capture all such American vessels as may be found attempting to trade with the ports of any of these Powers; without which security for the observance of the Embargo, the raising it nominally with respect to Great Britain alone, would, in fact, raise it with respect to all the world.

On these conditions his Majesty would consent to withdraw the Orders in Council of January and November 1807, so far as respects America. As the first and second of these conditions are the suggestions of the persons in authority in America to you, and as Mr. Pinkney has recently (but the first time) expressed to me his opinion, that there will be no disposition on the part of his Government to the enforcement by the naval power of Great Britain of the regulations of America with respect to France, and the countries to which these regulations continue to apply, but that his Government was itself aware, that without such enforcement these regulations must be altogether nugatory; I flatter myself that there will be no difficulty in obtaining a distinct and official recognition of these conditions from the American Government. For this purpose you are at liberty to communicate this dispatch in extenso to the American Secretary of State. Upon receiving through you, on the part of the American Government, a distinct and official recognition of the three mentioned conditions, his Majesty will lose no time in sending to America a Minister fully empowered to consign them to a formal and regular Treaty. As, however, it is possible that the delay which must intervene before the actual conclu-

sion of a Treaty may appear to the American Government to deprive this arrangement of its benefits, I am to authorise you, if the American Government should be desirous of acting upon the agreement, before it is reduced to a regular form (either by the immediate repeal of the embargo, and the other Acts in question, or by engaging to repeal them on a particular day) to assure the American Government of his Majesty's readiness to meet such a disposition in the manner best calculated to give it immediate effect. Upon the receipt hereof an Official Note, containing an engagement for the adoption by the American Government of the three conditions above specified, his Majesty will be prepared, on the faith of such engagement, either immediate (if the repeal shall have been immediate in America) or on any day specified by the American Government of that repeal, reciprocally to recall the Orders in Council, without waiting for the conclusion of the Treaty; and you are authorised in the circumstances herein described, to take such reciprocal engagements on his Majesty's behalf.—I am, &c. &c.

GEORGE CANNING.

The following is the Act of Abdication of the late King Gustavus Adolphus IV. which was read in the sitting of the Diet of the 10th instant:—

"In the name of God—We, Gustavus Adolphus, by the grace of God, King of Sweden, of the Goths, Wends, &c. Duke of Sleswick, Holstein, &c. make known, that having been proclaimed king, this day seven years back, and ascended with a bleeding heart, a throne stained with the blood of a beloved and revered father, we regret not being able to promote the true welfare and honour of this ancient realm, inseparable from the happiness of a free and independent people. Now whereas we are convinced that we cannot any longer continue our royal functions, and preserve tranquillity and order in this kingdom, therefore, we consider it is our sacred duty to abdicate our royal dignity and crown, which we do hereby freely and uncompelled, to pass our remaining days in the fear and worship of God, wishing that all our subjects, and their descendants, may enjoy more happiness and prosperity in future, through the mercy and blessing of God. In testimony and confirmation thereof, we have personally written and signed this present and corroborated it with our royal seal,

(L.S.) GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS,
Grieholm Castle, March 19, 1809."

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

On Thursday the 29th ult. a meeting of the inhabitants of Belfast, was held to take into consideration a plan for the abolition of mendicancy in this town, conformable to a paper previously circulated, of which a copy is given (page 436 in this number). At this meeting it was agreed that a house should be procured for a repository and sales-room, where work of all descriptions should be provided for those who applied, that they should be paid for their labour, and if through inability they were incapable of earning a sum sufficient for their maintenance, the deficiency should be supplied. The funds are to be raised by a voluntary subscription. The Sovereign, who presided at the meeting, has also offered in the name of the corporation, a sum of from 3 to 400*l.* which had been vested in them for the use of the poor, to be applied to the augmentation of the revenue. A committee of thirty-one gentlemen has been nominated, and it is confidently expected that the exertion now made will have the happiest effects, by providing work for those who are able and willing to help themselves, and by clearing the streets of the number of idle sturdy vagrants that at present infest them; as it is to be hoped that no person will through a mistaken benevolence, bestow alms to strutting beggars, when a place is provided in which adequate means of support are afforded them.

Among the public occurrences since our last, we are sorry to recount the incalculable loss to the proprietors of the Belfast Mills, occasioned by that very extensive building, stored with grain and flour, having been reduced to ashes.

Within a space of little more than twelve months, the facility of travelling has greatly increased in this part of Ireland. The following Coaches now leave Belfast for the following places, at the following times:

THE MAIL-COACH, for Dublin, starts every morning from the Donegall-arms, at 10 o'clock.

THE NEWRY-FLY, starts from the Donegall-arms, on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at half past 9 o'clock, and returns next day.

THE MAIL-COACH, for Donaghadee, every afternoon at 5.

THE MAIL-COACH, for Colerain and Derry, through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randalstown, Ballymena and Ballymoney, every afternoon at 4.

A DAY COACH to Colerain belonging to the same proprietors, at 8 o'clock on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and returns from Colerain on the evenings of Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

A COACH for Cookstown through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randalstown, Toome, Castledawson, Magherafelt and Money-more, on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 8 o'clock, and returns on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

JOHN M'Coy's COACHES through Lisburn, Moira, and Lurgan, at 8 o'clock in the morning, and thence on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to Armagh, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays to Newry, returning from each place on the alternate days to Lurgan, and forming a communication on 6 days in the week, between Belfast and Lurgan.

A COACH from Lisburn comes in on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, at 11 o'clock, and returns on the evenings of the same days at 5.

THE HIBERNIAN-COACH, starts from the Donegall-arms, at 8 o'clock, on the mornings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and runs through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randle-town, Ballymena and Ballymoney, to Colerain.

CARRICKFERGUS-COACH, starts from Mr. Samuel Kennedy's, at the Exchange, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 5 o'clock in the evening.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

ANTRIM....Married...Mr. J. Weatherp, of Carrickfergus, to Miss Susan Johnson, of Ballynure. At Belfast, the Rev. E. May, rector of Belfast, to Miss Sinclair, eldest daughter of the late W. Sinclair, of Donegall-place, esq. S. J. Pittar, esq. of Dublin, to Miss Margaret M'Neil, of Larne. Mr. W. Orr, linen-merchant, of Belfast, to Mary, daughter of the late Mr. R. Smith, of this town.

Died....At Ballycraig, near Carnmoney, aged 109, Eleanor Guthrie: she retained her faculties to the last, and was able to read without spectacles, till within a few days of her death. In Lisburn, aged 53, Mrs. Isabella Smith, wife of W. Smith, esq. If to have fulfilled the duties of life, as a truly affectionate wife and mother is "to prove by the ends of being to have been," she was justly entitled to that praise. In Belfast, on Wednesday, the 28th ult. Mr. P. Connor, notary public and master in chancery; a man whose *liberality* of sentiment and *benevolence* of heart entitled him to the esteem of the good among men: his funeral was attended by a very numerous and respectable class of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood.

ARMAGH....Died....Aged 66, Mrs. C. Pooler, of Tyross.

CAVAN....Married...S. Moore, of Monrohall, esq. to Miss Nesbitt, only daughter of Colonel Nesbitt, of Lisner.

L.DERRY....Married...Capt. E. Powell, to Miss Cannon, late of Aghnacloy.

LEINSTER.

DUBLIN...*Married*...Dr. Duke, of the Wicklow Militia, to Miss Face, of Babbington. Charles Helwis Laton, esq. of the 1st Dragoon, to Harriet, second daughter of Col. Hugh Stafford. Mr. W. Hull, of Belfast, to Miss Maria Brunton, daughter of T. Brunton, esq. Brow of the Hill, near Dublin.

Died...At Liffey-street Chapel, the Rev. T. A. Clarke; this young clergyman, who has distinguished himself so much in this city for his piety and talents, was the youngest son of Captain Clarke, near Lisburn. He had been educated a Protestant; but joined the Catholic profession.—He became a student of the Irish College at Lisbon, in 1793, where he made his courses of philosophy and Divinity, and became remarkable for his reasoning powers and excellent judgment.—His benevolence extended to all—to the widow, whose tears he dried, and to the orphan; to whom he was a father. In composing and preparing his discourses, he possessed wonderful facility. Solely intent on profiting his hearers, he was in a great measure careless of ornament: His style was plain though pure, his reasoning accurate and conclusive, and his subjects methodical and judiciously arranged. As his ideas were his own, his sermons did not commonly embrace general topics, but went either to prove and elucidate the tenets of his religion, or were vehement and pointed exhortations against the prevailing vices of the day. It was in the ardent and unremitting exercise of sincere piety and elevated talents that he was visited by an early death, in the prime of life, before he counted many years. The esteem in which this excellent man was held by every order of the community, could not be better exemplified than by the numerous and respectable procession which accompanied his remains to the grave. There were upwards of 1100 gentlemen with scarfs, and more than 150 coaches, independent of an immense populace, who conducted themselves with the most creditable decorum.

KING'S CO...*Married*...R. Letzer, of Birr, esq. to Miss White, of the same town.

LOUTH...*Married*...R. Hamill, of Drogheda, esq. to Rosetta, second daughter of W. Dardis, of Belgreen, Co. Meath, esq.

MEATH...*Married*...William Armstrong, esq. capt. 2d heavy German Dragoons, to Miss Hopkins, daughter of J. Hopkins, of Dances-court, esq.

MUNST R.

CLARE...*Married*...At Ennis, W. H. Roberts, esq. of the 80th Regt. to Miss

Fitzgerald, daughter of the Rev. M. Fitzgerald.

LIMERICK...*Married*...W. Browne, of the Londonderry Militia, esq. to Miss Bennett, only daughter and heiress of the late J. Bennett of Quarry-hill, esq.

WATERFORD...*Married*...The Rev. W. Price to Miss Graham, of Capel-street, Dublin.

CONNAUGHT.

GALWAY...*Married*...John Rosengreve, jun. of Gort, esq. to Miss Martin, of same place.

MAYO...*Died*...At Knockmore, aged 25, Mrs. Ormsby; wife of Lieut. Col. Ormsby, of the R. Mayo Militia.

BRITISH.

The London Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce, have communicated a desire to the Dublin Society, that specimens of marble may be sent to their Rooms in the Adelphi; and also have proposed a premium of a gold medal, one hundred guineas value, for the discovery of a quarry of white marble; fit for the purpose of statuary, and equal to those kinds imported from Italy.

Died...At Bramham, near Wetherby, Henry Childerson, aged 102. For 70 years he had been a daily labourer; and partaker of the bounty of the hospitable mansion of J. Fox, esq. of Bramham-park; in his diurnal journeys to and from which it has been calculated that he had travelled the length of three times round the world. At Chelsea, Sir W. Henry Douglas, Bt. vice-admiral of the blue. He is succeeded by his brother, now Sir Howard Douglas, a lieutenant-colonel in the army, and commandant of the Royal Military College of High Wycombe. In London, T. Andrews, of Belfast, esq. a magistrate for the county of Antrim, and one of the Managers of the Academical Institution in Belfast.

Died...At Walthamstow, in the 81st year of his age, David Barclay. We extract from his character, as given in one of the London Papers, the following instance of his benevolence exerted towards the long oppressed Africans: "No man was ever more active than David Barclay, in promoting whatever might ameliorate the condition of man—largely endowed by Providence with the means, he felt it his duty to set great examples; and when an argument was set up against the emancipation of the negroes from slavery, 'that they were too ignorant and barbarous for freedom,' he resolved; at his own expense, to demonstrate the fallacy of the imputation. Having had an estate in Jamaica fall to him, he determined, at the expense of 10,000*l.* to emancipate

the whole *gang* (as they are termed) of slaves. He did this with his usual prudence as well as generosity. He sent out an agent to Jamaica, and made him hire a vessel, in which they were all transported to America, where the little community was established in various handicraft trades. The members of it prospered under the blessing of his care, and lived to show that the black skin inclosed hearts as full of gratitude, and minds as capable of improvement as that of the proudest white. Such was the conduct of this English merchant! During all this course of well-doing, his own manners were simple, his hospitality large and his charities universal."

MRS. ANNE SEWARD.

This well known and justly celebrated literary character, was the only daughter of the Rev. Mr. Seward, rector of Egam in Derbyshire, a gentleman who had presented himself to the public as an author.

His daughter gave early intimations of a superiority of talent; and these as might be expected, were carefully fostered by the attentive cares of her parent, who seized the earliest opportunity of impressing on her infant mind, a taste for polite literature, and poetry in particular. So well were his exertions aided by her natural powers, that at the age of three years, she could recite the *Allegro* of Milton; and before she was ten, could repeat a large portion of the *Paradise lost*.

Her early turn for poetry, which even at that age showed itself in attempts at the composition of verse, was not, however uncontrolled. She was prevailed upon by her mother to restrain, and almost wholly relinquish her favourite pursuit. In this perhaps she was fortunate; for, guided and instigated by one parent, those studies would most probably have arrogated an uncontrolled dominion over her mind, to the exclusion of other occupations, not less valuable, though less brilliant, had they not been curbed by the checks imposed on them by the other.

Yet poetry was still the amusement of her leisure hours. She wrote with great ease and facility. On the death of her only sister she composed an elegy when sitting in the garden. The first publication that brought her into public notice, was an elegy on the Death of Captain Cook, which was deservedly admired, and is now to be met with in several miscellaneous selections of poetry, this, together with an ode to the Sun, was published in the year 1780. Soon after appeared a monody for the death of the unfortunate Major André. It is needless to

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give an opinion of these poems, their merits are too well ascertained to require any further comment. They attracted no small degree of attention from the admirers of this fascinating branch of letters, and obtained the decided approbation of the celebrated Dr. Darwin.

Some other poems and a novel named *Louisa*, have since been published by her. She also translated, or to speak more correctly, paraphrased some of the odes of Horace, in a manner which gives a strong proof of the correctness of her taste, and the vivacity of her imagination.

Her last production is a life of her former friend and literary admirer, the late Dr. Darwin. It is peculiarly pleasing to study the lives of great men, written either by themselves, or by those who have had opportunities of forming a just estimate of their character, and illustrating it by characteristic anecdotes, which can only be known to a friend.

Bath, March 25, 1809.

A beautiful young lady, in a neighbouring city, was lately rescued from the most imminent danger of being burned to death. As the method of her preservation from this dreadfully calamitous situation might be successfully adopted in like cases, a minute detail of all the circumstances ought to be generally known. Her muslin dress, being touched by a candle, caught fire, and the flame instantly blazed above her head. Fortunately two of her sisters were in her chamber. One sister, with a long and strong pair of scissors, blunt at both points, with great expedition and steady resolution, cut through all her clothes on the hind part of her neck, all down her back; that is, through her gown, her stays, in the space between two whale-bones, her shift, and the bindings of her petticoats. As one sister was thus employed, the other slit up the gown at the wrists, and then immediately, with a pair of tongs from the fender, took firm hold of the clothes on fire, upon the fore part of the neck, and pulled them forcibly forward, and downward from the shoulders; when all the garment instantly dropped off upon the floor, and were thrown into the chimney in a blaze. The time between the commencement of the fire, and till the young lady was rescued from all danger, was less than two minutes. The flame had scorched her face and neck, so as to be very painful for some hours, but not even a blister had arisen. A delay of but a few minutes longer, would have occasioned incurable mischief; either death or deformity must

have been the inevitable consequence. It may be proper to explain how these measures of prevention were so promptly and effectually executed. All the sisters had previously received complete instructions from their parents, in what method to proceed in such a dreadful emergency, if their muslin dress should catch fire. They had frequently consulted together how to act in the moment of alarming danger. Each of them had provided a proper pair of scissors for the purpose. It is impossible to express the extacy of joy which the sisters and parents expressed upon this happy occasion. They united in fervent thanksgivings to Providence for this wonderful deliverance from so dreadful a calamity.

BEILEY PORTEUS, D.D. BISHOP OF LONDON.

This celebrated, and truly respectable divine, was the son of a reputable tradesman in Yorkshire. He was born in the year 1731. After having received a school education at Rippon, he entered Christ's College, where he distinguished himself by assiduous application, devoting himself, even at that early period, to the studies required for the due performance of the sacred functions which he was one time to perform with so much honour to himself, and advantage to the ministry. This conduct will appear more laudable, if contrasted with that of so many candidates for holy orders, who frequently postpone the preparation until after their appointment. Nay, we have even instances of some who have extended their cautious scruples so far, as not to assume deacon's orders until the death of the incumbent whom they were to succeed prevented the possibility of being disappointed in the pecuniary emoluments to which they looked forward.

In the year 1755, Mr. P. was elected one of the Fellows, and appointed a preacher at Whitehall chapel. In four years after, he obtained the Seatonian prize poem for the best composition on death. It is the only essay of his pen in this species of composition; but as it has deservedly found a place in most selections of modern poetry, it is needless to comment on it here.

In 1761 he published a refutation of an essay entitled, "The History of the Man after God's own Heart," written by Peter Annet, with a view of exposing the sacred history to contempt, on account of the defects in the character of David. The answer to this appeared in the form of a sermon preached before the university of Cambridge. It is supposed that this discourse first introduced

him to the patronage of Archbishop Secker, who appointed him one of his domestic chaplains, and presented him to the living of Withesham, in Kent, and shortly after to the rectory of Bucking, in the same county; as also to a prebend's stall in the cathedral church of Peterborough.

In the year 1765 he married Miss Hodgson, and obtained the living of Huuton, and shortly after that of Lambeth, which he was permitted to hold with the former.

On the death of his venerable patron he was engaged, together with his Grace's other chaplain, Dr. Stinton, in the revision and publication of the Lectures on the Church Catechism, Sermons, &c. To the latter of these was prefixed a life of the author, written by Dr. Porteus, which has been very much admired.

In 1776 he was raised to the episcopal bench, as is supposed by the immediate influence of the queen, to whom Dr. P. had been private chaplain. On attaining to this dignity, having observed the remissness with which Good Friday was observed in the metropolis, he published a tract called "An earnest Exhortation to the religious Observance of Good Friday; in a Letter to the Inhabitants of Lambeth." Although this Address was found fault with by some, as savouring too much of the rigid spirit of the last century, he had the satisfaction to find it had the desired effect. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, published and circulated a cheap edition in great numbers; by which means a more strict adherence to this anniversary has been since maintained.

In 1783, he pleaded the cause of the enslaved Africans, before the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts; and it must have afforded him the greatest satisfaction to have lived to see that measure accomplished, which he had been among the first to bring into public notice. In the same year he published a volume of sermons, to which he added a second the year after.

In 1787 he was translated to the see of London on the death of Bishop Lowth. Soon after his removal thither, he was the means of founding a society for the conversion of the Negro slaves in the West Indies, which has been attended with very happy effects. Indeed, his exertions to promote the cause he professed, have been unremitting, and pursued not only with perseverance but moderation. In order to check the spirit of infidelity which made such rapid progress, he delivered a course of Lectures on the truth

of the Gospel History and the Divinity of Christ, during the season of Lent 1798. These were attended by numbers, and the stile of his eloquence, simple, grave, and unaffected, joined to the importance of the subject, and the well-known character of the speaker, gave them a weight and efficacy which could not but be attended with the happiest effect.

His public preaching was not confined to these. He was always ready to assist

the public charities by his elocution; and during his residence in the country, frequently took a large share of the duty of public instruction. He has also published many small tracts on religious subjects, written for particular occasions.

He died in the 78th year of his age, leaving a shining example to all his successors in the sacred office, which cannot be too much admired, or too closely imitated.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

SINCE last report, the weather from being extremely hot, changed to wet, cold, and tempestuous, unusual at this season.

The crops on poor or light soils, which were suffering from the want of moisture, have been rather improved by the rain, and the general appearance indicates a tolerable produce.

Wheat in particular, looks well, the late sown crops, which at the beginning of the season appeared thin, have come forward beyond expectation.

In some districts where the land is flat, there are complaints of the potatoes having suffered by the late heavy rains, which rotted the sets in the drills. If farmers would get more into the practice of making the drill furrow very shallow, they would seldom suffer by wet weather, and the quality of their potatoes would be greatly improved by it; the writer of this report, has been many years in the habit of doing so, and experienced the best effects from the practice. To a defect in this respect is principally to be attributed the difference between the quality of potatoes raised in the drill and lazy bed way, so much complained of.

Great complaints of the flax crops are made over the whole country; and with too much justice; the prospect of a scarcity of that article never appeared so great as at the present moment; last year's crop was a bad one, and flax is now so scarce and dear that it is supposed there are not more than one half of the spinners employed at the wheel.

The new American seed that came late into the country, has the best appearance in the fields; but unless the season prove very favourable, there is not much reason to expect a good produce from such late sowing. In short if some favourable change does not take place, there is much reason for apprehending that our staple manufacture, will suffer from the want of the raw material.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

If the politician have to complain of blunders in the general mode of conducting the war, commercial men have no less reason to complain of the mode of carrying on the war against trade: and probably the errors in both cases may be traced in a considerable degree to the people, without exclusively confining the blame to administration.—It is generally confessed on all hands that the business of flax-seed has been miserably mismanaged this year. The British orders in council, roused the Americans to lay an embargo on their trade, and of course to prevent the exportation of flax-seed from that country. The internal restrictions on the trade of Russia, and Holland, likewise prevented our receiving a supply from those countries. In the prospect of these difficulties a meeting of linen drapers was invited to assemble at Armagh for the purpose of petitioning the executive and legislature to afford substantial relief by acting so towards America, as to induce her government to rescind the embargo; and by prudent and well timed concession remove the difficulties, which obstructed a full supply from that quarter. "No," say the majority at this meeting, preferring some undefined notions of loyalty, and of not interfering with *the wisdom and infallibility of his Majesty's ministers*, "we will not adopt this measure of petitioning; we will address Mr. Foster to remove our difficulties." Well! the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer is addressed, in very indefinite terms, without clearly telling what is wanted; he feels the

honour, and thinks he must be active. But the activity of ministers often prove injurious to the interests of trade. He opens the oil stores in England, and by means of a bounty, he induces the holders to send over large quantities of bad seed, much of which happily for the country remains unsold, and is now likely to return whence it came to be crushed into oil; but to the great injury of the country, a considerable part of this bad seed was sold for sowing. To facilitate this plan of *having the appearance of doing something*, he by an act, which he introduced into parliament, removes the summary penalty of £10. 10s. besides forfeiture of the seed, cask, &c. for selling bad seed, and so far leaves the sower without a remedy: but on a close examination of the acts, contrary to an opinion endeavoured to be propagated by the seller, it appears that a remedy at common law, still lies in case of bad seed being sold; for the 42d of Geo. III. cap 75, sec. 13, enacts:

“That if any person shall buy flax-seed, or hemp-seed, with an intent to sow the same, and it shall prove to be unsound, mixed, bad, damaged, or unfit for sowing, the penalties hereby inflicted on the person who shall have sold the same, shall not be deemed a bar to his or her bringing his or her action for damages, or suing for the same, by civil bill or otherwise, but that it shall and may be lawful for every person to sue and recover the damages, which he or she shall sustain by such seed, having been mixed, bad, damaged, or unfit for sowing, or different from the seed which the certificate given, or which ought to have been given at the time of sale, if demanded, imports, or would have imported.”

The act of last session only repealed the summary penalty, and consequently the action at common law still remains. But this remedy affords small satisfaction to the sower. He not only loses the price of the seed and labour, and the rent of his land, but the means of his family's making a subsistence by their industry during the ensuing season, and is besides subjected to the expense and uncertainties of the law, and to the plea which sophistry may possibly adduce, that the unfavourable season, and not the bad quality of the seed, was the cause of its not growing. Assistant barristers at the ensuing quarter sessions, will probably determine in the first instance, as it is said many suits will be instituted for compensation. It is a subject of regret that such should be the state of things, so prejudicial to the linen manufacture. Nor more than half of the usual quantity is sown, and much of what was sown not growing: and this regret is increased, when it is considered that such a state is mostly owing to the joint blunders of the majority at Armagh, and our Irish finance minister whom they selected as the guardian of the interests of the linen trade. Nothing shows the futility of the plan in a stronger point of view, than this simple circumstance, that the scheme of introducing old seed into the country, has completely failed, and the only substantial relief experienced was in the unexpected arrival of new seed from America. The plan of those who were active in calling the meeting at Armagh, but whose views were defeated by the force of numbers, was to facilitate the plan of procuring a timely supply from America. If such counsels had been steadily pursued, there would not now probably have been cause to deplore the evils introduced by a contrary mode of acting. May past errors operate as a salutary warning against rashly persisting in a system, which has entailed such distress on the country. The linen board appears now sensible of the injury done to the country, by the sale of bad seed, and have directed the county inspectors to examine the state of the flax crop, which as it is more generally known, is found in many places to be very defective; as little of the old Riga seed has grown, and a cargo of 1200 hogsheds of old American imported into Dublin, is reported to have failed. The deficiency in the flax-seed sown this year, may in part be calculated from the circumstance that in the district adjoining Larne, we hear that only about 60 or 70 hogsheds were sown instead of the usual quantity of from 190 to 220 hogsheds.

The opening of the Dutch ports, though probably only a measure of short duration, has removed some of the difficulties under which trade suffered, and shows in a striking point of view, the inconveniences which we, as well as the nations in hostility with us mutually suffer, by the commercial war, into which, by a mistaken policy on all sides we are forced by our respective governments.

The holders of American produce continue to be disappointed in the greed of their speculative avidity, from the many arrivals, which have already come in, and which are expected from the United States. We are yet unacquainted with the effects which the partial repeal of the British orders, by the fresh order of the 26th of April, have had on its being known in America: about this time they will also be acquainted with the disavowal by our ministry of the terms acceded to by the British envoy, with the American government. The rejoicing on regaining their usual freedom of trade may probably be turned into a state of high exasperation at finding their disappointment.

From what has already taken place in America, we may perceive the effects of popular feeling on their government. The people felt the irksomeness of the restraints on trade: they expressed those feelings, and the government conceded to them by coming to an accommodation with the British Envoy. Let us contrast our state with their's. Our people timid, feeble, and hesitating, do not speak their sentiments with the firmness necessary to ensure the just weight to which they are entitled in a free government; and the executive taking advantage of this cringing disposition, gratify their passions by continuing, though in some degree mitigated, their ruinous system of orders in council, and will probably entail further sufferings on the country, by persisting in a course, from which we have already suffered so much. At the period of the President sending his message to Congress, at its opening on the 23d. ulto. neither the mitigated order of council of the preceding month, nor the subsequent refusal of the British ministry, appears to have been known in America. Some shipments of linen have been already made from this country to America, by way of Liverpool; and several vessels are in the course of next month for that country, advertised to sail from this port. Merchants in America have written to their correspondents in this country, to send to them linens by the first ships. So far things look favourably for the renewal of our commerce with the United States, unless the late conduct of our government should again lead to the renewal of commercial hostility.

Flax has again advanced. If the Dutch ports are permitted to remain open, that article will probably be supplied to the English market from Holland: and thus our flax may remain for the use of our own manufactures. Still from the deficiency in the crop it will probably be scarce and dear: but if the Dutch ports should be closed, our linen manufacture must suffer greatly through the ensuing season.

Sugar and rum continue to decline in price. The want of an adequate supply of timber, bears hard on many of the labouring classes, and on the general improvement of the country. The difficulty of procuring timber and other Northern produce, will probably be further increased by the late Ukase published in Russia, to prohibit trade with these countries which had been carried on under the mask of neutral colours and from Sweden being compelled to close her ports also against trade with the British Isles.

On the 1st instant, two new banks, the Commercial Bank, and the Northern Bank, were opened in the town of Belfast. The quantity of paper in circulation being thus suddenly increased, the premium on guineas rose for a few days to 2 and 2½ per cent; but when the amount of the issues found their own level, the discount on them was reduced again to the currency of last month, ¼ to ½ per cent. Exchange on London, has mostly been from 8 to 8½ per cent for guineas, and owing to the fluctuation of discount on notes, the exchange in that medium has varied from 8½ to 10 per cent.—Silver is now in such plenty, as to become troublesome, from its superabundant quantity: of course the discount between tenpennies and bank notes, is likely to cease, and probably notes in comparison with them, will bear a premium.

MEDICAL REPORT.

*List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from
May 20, till June 20.*

Barometer...highest	30 30	Thermometer...highest	73 6
mean	29 10	mean	60 30
lowest	28 40	lowest	43 0

Hæticæ,	1	Hætic fever.
Pneumonia,	1	Pleurisy.
Ophthalmia,	3	Inflammation of the eyes.
Rheumatismus,	3	Acute rheumatism.
Sphacelus,	1	Mortification.
Hepatitis,	1	Inflammation of the liver.
Arthrodynia,	2	Chronic rheumatism.
Podagra,	1	Gout.
Variola,	1	Small pox.
Rubeola,	2	Measles.
Phthisis,	2	Consumption.
Hæmorrhoids,	1	Piles.
Catarrhus,	2	Common cold.
Dyspepsia,	2	Indigestion.
Hypochondriasis,	1	Hypochondriac disease.

<i>Asthma</i> , - - - - -	2	<i>Asthma</i> .
<i>Hysteria</i> , - - - - -	1	<i>Hysterics</i> .
<i>Rachitis</i> , - - - - -	1	<i>Rickets</i> .
<i>Scrophula</i> , - - - - -	6	<i>Evil</i> .
<i>Cataracta</i> , - - - - -	2	<i>Blindness from opacity of the crystalline lens</i> .
<i>Herpes</i> , - - - - -	2	<i>Ringworm or tetter</i> .
<i>Gonorrhœa</i> , - - - - -	10	<i>Venereal disease</i> .
<i>Lues</i> , - - - - -		
<i>Morbi infantiles</i> , - - - - -	20	<i>Febrile and bowel complaints of children</i> .

From the very sudden depression of the thermometer, from 72 to 43 at the commencement of the present month, many important changes might be reasonably expected in the human frame, but these apprehensions, fortunately, have not been realized, if we except a more than usual number of colds and sore throats, and whether it had any influence in extirpating fever, it is difficult to say, for it will be seen that there is not a single case of it in the present catalogue, nor has the Reporter heard of any but one solitary instance of it in the town of Belfast, during the present month. Measles and small pox, have again appeared, and it is to be feared will make many victims; the common practice of giving wine and spirits in both diseases to "strike them out," as it is termed, cannot be too strongly reprehended.

Galvanism has been tried in several complaints, and without any remarkably good effects. The strong facts adduced in its favour by some authors, have not been confirmed by our practice, and it seems doubtful as yet, to what place in the *Materia Medica*, it should be referred; these, although unwelcome truths, may have their use, as tending to abate unreasonable confidence, and as inciting to a more sedulous search after new and more successful modes of cure. The two cases of cataract were both happily cured by the operation of couching, after complete blindness for the space of two or three years.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

Now fragrance from each blossom'd bough

Descends in balmy gales; and now

Thy fav'rite flowers their leaves expand,

In dew-drops drest by nature's hand.

WESTAL.

Although Ireland nourishes in her almost ever-verdant vales a numerous variety of plants, grateful to the palate and pleasing to the sight, yet the ever active mind of man, roaming in quest of new enjoyments, searches the most distant regions for fresh varieties; from Persia was brought the peach, from North America the beautiful Azaleas, Kalmias and the splendid Magnolias; but to Europe and to culture are we indebted for the numerous varieties of the garden's pride, "the lovely rose." Many of these beautiful strangers soon accommodate themselves to our soil and climate, while others shrink before the chilling blast, and only in the most favourable seasons reward us for our assiduous care. After the late severe winter all the vegetable creation seemed to glory in the genial spring, and the orchard gave large promise, but the cold and frosty nights of the 29th and 30th of May, and the 1st and 2d of June, nearly put a period to our hopes of fruit, and nipt, so as nearly to destroy, many a fair expanding flower.

May 21. Roan Tree (*Pyrus aucuparia*) Holly (*Ilex aquifolia*) and Laburnum (*Cytisus laburnum*) in full flower.

22. Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) Rusty-leaved Rosebay (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*) and Night-smelling Campion (*Lychnis vesportina*) flowering.

24. Yellow Water Lily (*Nymphaea lutea*) White Water Lily (*N. alba*) flowering.

Horse fly or Cleg (*Tabanus Pluvialis*) appearing.

25. Double Pæony (*Pæonia Officinalis*) flowering.

26. Bulb-bearing Orange Lily (*Lilium bulbiferum*) St. Bruno's Lily (*Anthemicum Liliastrium*) Alpine Rose (*Rosa Alpina*) and Pendulous fruited Rose (*Rosa pendulina*) flowering.

28. Oriental Poppy (*Papaver Orientale*) flowering. White Beam Tree (*Pyrus Aria*) in full flower.

June 1. Connaught heath (*Erica Daboecia*) flowering.

3. Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) flowering.

5. Common Cow Wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) and Wood Cow Wheat (*M. Sylvaticum*) flowering.

9. Cuckoo Flower, or Ragged Robin (*Lychnis Flos-cuculi*) flowering.

10. White Ladies' Red-Straw (*Gallium Saxatile*) flowering.
11. Dog Rose (*Rosa Canina*) flowering.
13. Ling Heath (*Erica cinerea*) flowering.
19. Mouse-ear Hawk-weed (*Hieracium Pilosella*) flowering.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

In our last, mention was made of the powerful influence of the winds on our temperature and moisture; during the present period we have every reason to remember our remark. For the greater part of May there never was finer and warmer weather known at the season, and we flattered ourselves that Summer had occupied the place of Spring, and that we had done with Winter, but the wind changing, brought back such chilling blasts as soon convinced us that our station was within the confines of the Frigid Zone. Accounts from England, in the papers of the 6th of June, mention snow being eighteen inches deep on the turnpike-road, on Shapfells, Cumberland; and some of the high mountains of the county Donegall, were white for several days about the same time.

May 21, 22	-----	Showery,
23, 24, 25,	-----	Fine,
26,	-----	Rain at Night,
27,	-----	Fair,
28, 29,	-----	Showery,
30,	-----	Rain,
31,	-----	Showery,
June 1, 2,	-----	Stormy and wet,
3,	-----	Fine,
4,	-----	Showery,
5,	-----	Wet,
6,	-----	Showery,
7,	-----	Wet,
8, 9,	-----	Showery,
10,	-----	Showery morning, fine day,
11,	-----	Fine,
12, 13,	-----	Some light showers,
14,	-----	Wet morning,
15,	-----	Light showers,
16,	-----	Dark threatening rain,
17, 18, 19, 20,	-----	Fine.

The predominant range of the Barometer has been below 30. and on the 6th of June it was so low as 28.9.

The lowest point at which the Thermometer stood, at 2, p. m. was 43 on the 1st of June, and the highest was on the 25th, when it stood at the same hour, at 72.

The general prevalence of the wind has been Southerly 16; Northerly 7, and Westerly 4; of the intermediate points, S.W. has been 10, and S.E. 7 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JULY 1809.

On the first, the Moon rises at 46 min. past 10 aft. under the 4 stars in the triangle of the Water-pot, and during the night they would be particularly remarked, if not obscured by her superior splendour.

Fifth, She rises at 0, morning, a little after Jupiter, having passed him before noon the preceding day, above her are the three first stars of the Ram, and she is nearest the 3d of these stars. As she mounts the heavens, Jupiter being to the west, and Venus considerably to the east of her, will form a pleasing groupe before sun rise; she passes the ecliptic on this day before noon but without producing an eclipse.

Tenth, She rises at 43 min. past 2 A. M. and sets at 31 min. past 6 P. M.

Fifteenth, We observe to the west of her the 17th star of the Lion, which she passed about a quarter past 5 in the evening, above her is the first of the Lion, to the west, and she is directing her course towards Mars which is very considerably to the east of her; at 9 she is 52° 32' from the first of the Virgin.—She sets this evening at 19 min. past 9.

Twentieth, She is to the east of the Virgin and Mars; she is near, but to

the east of the 11th of the Virgin, which she passed at 55 min. past 7, and as she will pass Hershell at 9 min. past 10, she will at 9 be nearly midway between the star and the planet; if the night be clear, any observer may now mark the position of this distant planet, and with a telescope discover him on a future night when the moon will be at a greater distance from him. At 9 she is $32^{\circ} 33'$ from Antares.

Twenty-fifth, She rises at 7 min. past 7 and passes the meridian at 23 min. past 11 aft. having above to the east of her the two first stars of the Goat, and below her to the west the small stars in the head of the Archer, at 9 she is $62^{\circ} 55'$ from the first of Pegasus and $41^{\circ} 46'$ from Antares.

Thirtieth, She rises at 32 min. past 9, being under the 4 stars in the Square, and passes the line drawn through the two eastern of these stars before sun-rise.

Mercury is in his inferior conjunction on the 10th, and, of course, will be too near the sun to be visible till toward the latter part of the month at which time he may be seen half an hour before sun rise, near east, north-east.

Venus is a morning star during the whole of the month, and will shine with great splendour at a considerable height in the heavens, in which her path is very conspicuous. During the greater part of this month she will form a pleasing prospect with a variety of the brilliant fixed stars, which it may reasonably be supposed will greatly arrest the attention of the curious.

Mars is an evening star this month, and on the 1st will be found near to, but west of the first of the Virgin, the Moon passes him on the morning of the 20th.

Jupiter may be looked for in the eastern hemisphere in the mornings, though he rises about midnight on the 1st and earlier every successive night: the Moon passes him on the 5th.

Saturn is on the meridian at 26 min. after 9, on the evening of the 1st, and 11 min. past 8 on the 19th, to the east of him is the second of the Scorpion, and below him the 11th of the Balance. Thus we have Mars, Hershell, and Saturn to amuse our evening walks, and the early riser will be gratified with observations on Mercury, Venus and Jupiter: the Moon passes him on the 22d.

Herschell is stationary on the 15th. During the whole month he is in a favourable situation to be observed, the Moon passes him on the 20th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.				4th SATELLITE.			
Immersion.				Immersion.											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	12	57	10	4	6	27	18	5	23	54	15 Im.				
4	7	25	34	7	19	45	31	6	2	25	15 E.				
6	1	53	59	11	9	4	54	13	3	55	56 Im.				
7	20	22	24	14	22	23	7	13	6	25	48 E.				
9	14	50	48	18	11	42	31	20	7	56	42 Im.				
11	9	19	13	22	1	0	47	20	10	25	28 E.				
13	3	47	38	25	14	20	10	27	11	57	26 Im.				
14	22	16	2	29	3	38	23	27	14	25	14 E.				
16	16	44	27												
18	11	12	51												
20	5	41	15												

Look to the right hand.*

* First Satellite Continued.

22	0	9	40
23	18	38	4
25	13	6	29
27	7	34	53
29	2	3	18
30	20	31	43

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We must decline the Correspondence of William. We find that one of the articles which we inserted lately with his signature, was set to music upwards of twenty years ago.

The following papers do not suit us. J. M. on Decorum; and a second article from the same writer, on Knowledge. Philanthropos. An ironical defence of Sterne, W. M.W. on the same subject. The latter is mistaken in his surmise.

The following pieces of Poetry are rejected. R. B. A Sonnet and Stanzas, signed W.H.D.

Errata.....We crave the Author's and our Reader's indulgence for an error in the press, in our last number, at page 368, col. 2d, five lines from the bottom, for mind read mine, in the Sonnet to the Red-breast; as it stands, the writer is made to speak of "a bird's mind," an error of which he was not guilty.—Page 415, col. 2d, line 4 from the bottom of the page, dele poor.—Page 435, col. 2d, line 29 from the bottom of the page, for tales read tails.

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